



Department
for Transport

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6 July 2023

Dear Professor Hodges,

I write to thank you for the work of the Regulatory Horizons Committee on its latest report. I can confirm that the Department for Transport has received a 'The Regulation of Hydrogen Fuel Propulsion in Maritime Vessels' and I will read it with interest.

I recognise that understanding the future of the fuels landscape is a crucial next step in our drive towards reaching net zero by 2050. Later this year, we will respond to your recommendations in full and, in the meantime, I would like to highlight the work that my Department is already doing in this space.

On 10 March 2022, we announced a £206m funding pot and the creation of the UK Shipping Office for the Reduction of Emissions (UK SHORE) research and development programme. This represents the biggest government investment in the commercial maritime sector and is focused on accelerating the technology necessary to decarbonise our domestic maritime sector. This includes funding research into hydrogen fuels.

In parallel, my Department has an extensive maritime decarbonisation policy and regulation programme. As part of this, we are considering those interventions which may be necessary to support the transition to net zero by 2050 for the maritime sector - including with regards port infrastructure and fuel supply. Whilst our approach is technology neutral, I believe that hydrogen will play a significant role and this report helps us in that regard. We plan to publish an updated Clean Maritime Plan by the end of this year which will set out a trajectory to 2050.

We will work with other areas of Government highlighted in the report to produce a full response later in the year.

Yours,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON