energy

OUTRAGE

offshore energy workers speak out

FLASH BULLETIN 8

it's time to accept the plan is...

WRONG!

accept the plan is .....WRONG

Welcome to issue 8 of Outage, our festive edition. This time of the year should be about 'good will to all men' and all that stuff, but sadly this is in short supply for anyone associated with offshore energy working right now. That said, we continue to campaign and lobby behind the scenes and we are hopeful we will have some good news in the new year.

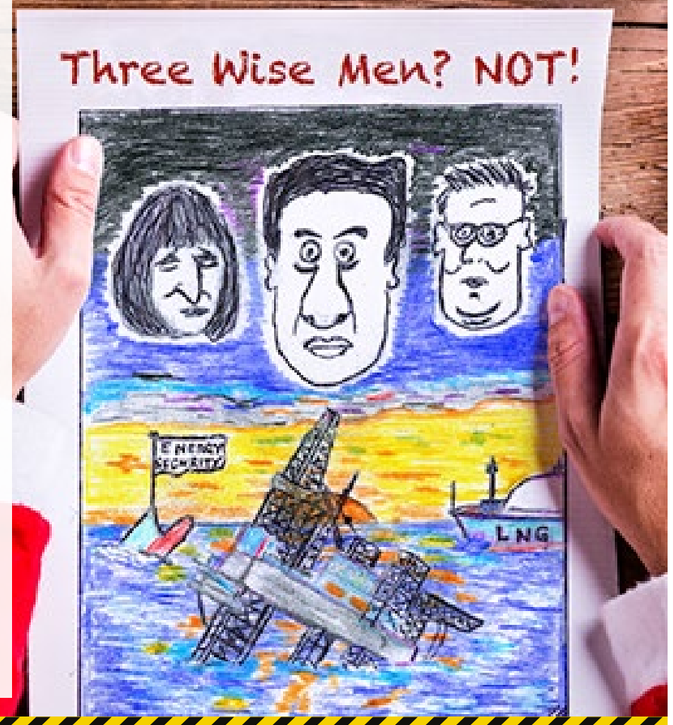
Last Christmas ...

Don't worry, you're not getting the lyrics of the old "Wham" classic, we are just reflecting on what we gave you in Outage last year at this time. It was the image sent in by a member for a Christmas card of their suggested three wise men, or at least two men and a woman – Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Minister for Energy Ed Milliband, and Chancellor Rachel Reeves.

Looking at what this group of 'wise men' did during their first six-months or so in power, gave us nothing to be cheerful about. In fact, to say members were disappointed with their offerings would be a massive understatement. There was nothing to offer any Christmas cheer, nothing positive. We tried to be positive with one line in the article which read – ***"things can only get better."*** Well, far from getting better, things are worse than we could ever have imagined. We also said on the front cover – **"Together let's make 2025 a better year"** – that's gone well, **NOT!**

We got it wrong, end of, but in our defence did anyone see this shit-show coming? We openly admit we got it WRONG, it's time those in power did likewise, time to accept you have got it WRONG! There is still time to turn this around and give the workforce that has been the engine of this country for fifty years plus, a genuine "Just Transition."

To everyone across the offshore energy sector, we hope you can have a happy Christmas and we assure you we will do everything we can to bring you some positive change in 2026.



UK Government launches "North Sea Future Plan"

We know there is widespread anger and disappointment about what's seen as the UK Governments failure to alter the Windfall Tax along with other measures that could improve things for us working in the North Sea. We completely understand and accept that view, there absolutely is a different approach needed to protect our future, no question! However, take a deep dive into this 'plan' and there are some little nuggets that we can use. We are not saying the plan will deliver all the changes we need, but there's a few bits and pieces that we have been banging on about in Outage for a while. For example, look at this section that touches on the quality of the jobs and conditions, training standards, training costs, and other issues we've been pushing on.

3.3 Supporting North Sea workers and communities to transition

Actions:

1. Use DESNZ levers to ensure a level playing field on job quality, including grant conditions and Fair Work Charter.
2. Support a smooth, end-to-end career transition journey for workers leaving the oil and gas industry to work in clean energy and other growth sectors, including through developing a new North Sea Jobs Service.
3. Reduce training burdens and costs for workers through the expanded Transition Training Fund.
4. Minimise qualification barriers between sectors, including through the Energy Skills Passport and a new collaborative group to address non-technical barriers.
5. Ensure workers and communities are involved in the development and delivery of this Plan, by engaging trade unions, and through representation on the North Sea Future Board.

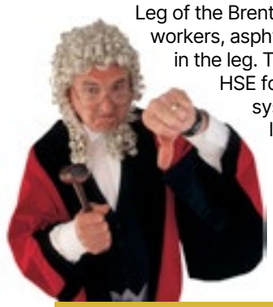
Words are easy of course, delivering and taking actions are another thing altogether. RMT officers are working in committees and workgroups behind the scenes and will continue to push on the issues important to you. Yes, we need more, we agree, and be assured we will keep pushing. We highlight Sections like 3.3 and others in this report to illustrate our campaigning and lobbying is working to some extent. With your support we can and will deliver more.

RMT Offshore Energy Branch

Shell Shocker!

On November 28th 2025, Shell were fined £560,000 after a potentially catastrophic gas and oil leak in one of the legs on Brent Charlie in 2017. The court heard that 200kg of gas and over 1,500kg of oil leaked from a badly corroded pipe into the leg. The HSE reported deficiencies in Shell's safety management systems were at the root cause of the leak which led to 31 non-essential workers being evacuated. HSE told the court over 170 platform workers had been placed at significant risk as a consequence of Shell's failures.

The 'shocker' about this is that Shell are serial repeat offenders. On September 11th 2003, a massive release of gas in the Utility Leg of the Brent Bravo resulted in the deaths of two workers, asphyxiated by the sheer volumes of gas in the leg. The company was prosecuted after the HSE found that Shell's safety management systems were at the root cause of the leak. Badly corroded pipework had allowed huge volumes of gas to be released into the leg following the failure of safety systems during a platform blowdown. The workers were overcome rapidly in a cloud of gas condensate which took several hours to clear and placed over 160 workers at risk.



Shell were fined £1,000,000 at Court proceedings in 2005. However, this was reduced to £900,000 by the Judge who acknowledged Shell had accepted their failings and had fully cooperated with the HSE investigation.

There are all too obvious similarities in the failings and potential consequences of these cases. (There are others) However, it took over 8-years to bring the 2017 events to a court hearing, which suggests that Shell were slightly less cooperative than they were in 2003. You have to question the corporate culture here; was the cooperation in 2003 more about protecting Shell's reputation because of the deaths and the public outcry after OILC had exposed Shell? In 2017, there were no fatalities and nothing like the level of exposure they encountered in 2003. Did Shell adopt a different attitude despite the fact that in both cases hundreds of workers were exposed to significant risks as a consequence of their same failures? Clearly the Court did not consider these matters given the fine in 2025 is significantly lower than that applied for an earlier, very similar offence!

A "Task Force" ... light on members!

No doubt thousands of workers employed in the oil and gas sector will be breathing a huge sigh of relief with the news that GB Energy (GBE) has created the, "Aberdeen Energy Task Force" ..... just what we need, right?

Reports tell us the 'task force' has been created to ensure the wealth of skills developed by the oil and gas industry will be the next generation of workers for the renewables sector. We should be applauding this as good news and if it was a new idea we might be a bit more enthusiastic about it. However, the fact is this has been done before!

Just after the oil price crash in 2014/15 the Scottish Government established the 'Energy Jobs Task Force' which met regularly in Aberdeen. After several years the group morphed into what was then called the 'Strategic Leadership Group' and all up, the thing ran for about 7-years. What did it deliver? We asked one of those who sat on the group for their opinion, his response was;

"In terms of industry jobs saved and/or new ones created, not a sausage worth the fry was ever delivered!"

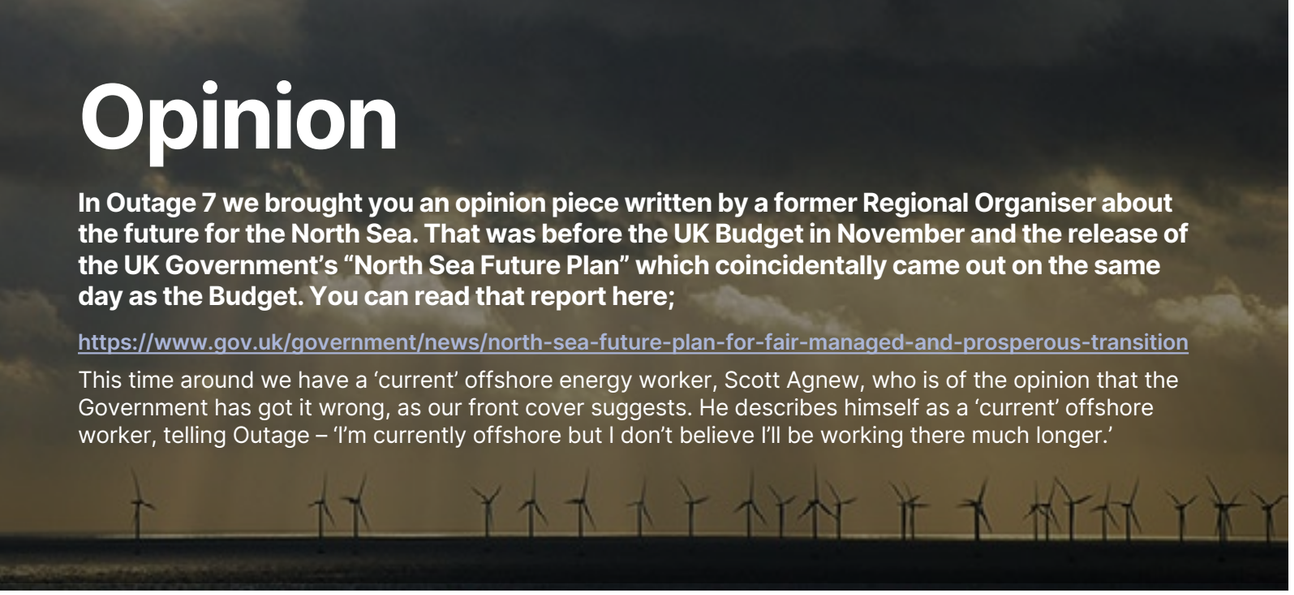
But hey, this is a new team (almost) and they will probably have a new approach, maybe a better approach. There is one or two who were involved with the original model, but that might be a positive as they may have learned from the first time around. One thing for sure, the list of task force team members is a real who's, who of industry captains;

Juergen Maier, Chair of GBE; **Graeme Sword**, Task Force Co-chair, formerly Bluewater; **Iain Anderson**, Task Force Co-chair, formerly Spirit Energy; **Allan Pirie**, Chief Exec Officer, Ashtead Technology; **Bob Keiller**, Chair of Aberdeen/Group Chamber of Commerce; **Bob Roddiman**, Co-head of Energy, Burness Paull; **Dave Whitehouse**, CEO of OEUK; **Donella Beaton**, Vice Principal RGU; **Jeff Corray**, Head of Private Equity, Piper Sandler, CFO D2Zero; **Maggie McGinlay**, Chief Exec Officer ETZ; **Michael Love**, Head of Policy Opito; **Myrtle Dawes**, Chief Exec Officer, Net Zero Technology Centre; **Neil McCulloch**, Chief Exec Officer Adura; **Nick Dalgarno**, Managing Director Energy, Power, Infrastructure Piper Sandler; **Roy MacGregor**, Chair of Global Energy Group; **Simon Roddy**, Senior Vice President and Upstream Director Shell; **Steve Gray**, Chief Exec Officer Vantex.

You might have noticed, no workers or workers representatives on the team. If the Task Force is an accessible, reporting body, that workers and representatives can engage with and hold them to account, they might argue there's no need for our involvement. We would disagree. Our members, workers, bring real-life experience of what is happening on the ground, something that these 'industry captains' are too far removed from to comprehend.

RMT Offshore Energy Branch

Opinion



In Outage 7 we brought you an opinion piece written by a former Regional Organiser about the future for the North Sea. That was before the UK Budget in November and the release of the UK Government's "North Sea Future Plan" which coincidentally came out on the same day as the Budget. You can read that report here;

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-future-plan-for-fair-managed-and-prosperous-transition

This time around we have a 'current' offshore energy worker, Scott Agnew, who is of the opinion that the Government has got it wrong, as our front cover suggests. He describes himself as a 'current' offshore worker, telling Outage – 'I'm currently offshore but I don't believe I'll be working there much longer.'

Accept you have got it WRONG!

Industry, Jobs, Energy Security, Prices, the economy.

Our old friend, The Minister for the Department of Energy, Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband, told us in July 2024 that under his watch, we would see a £300 reduction in energy bills, and we would be walking in the 'sunny uplands' of Net Zero by 2030. After 18 months, how is Mr Eds plan going?

Well, if Mr Miliband had listened to any academic regarding the 2030 date for Net Zero, apart from his own advisors who have extreme green ideological views, he would know that this date Is impossible without destroying industries and supply chains in the process. Most experts said that a date of 2035 or even 2040 was more realistic and potentially achievable. Since July 2024 we have seen an increase in domestic energy prices of approximately 10% (and a hell of a lot more for industry), and this is despite wholesale gas prices dropping by an average of 20% since then; indeed, we are looking at further increases in energy prices with some experts predicting annual increases through until the mid-2030s. I'm no expert, but I'd say that instead of walking in the sunny uplands, we are actually walking in a Dunkelflaunte nightmare, a term regular readers of Outage will be familiar with. [Dunkelflaunte is a German word that translates as 'dark doldrums' describing periods of weather with little or no sunshine or wind.]

To reach Net Zero by 2030, we would need the expansion of renewables and the infrastructure required for distribution, to increase by five times more than everything we have built in the last 5 years! In their efforts to achieve this, the government is throwing out subsidies which make the idea of lowering energy prices a complete and utter non-starter. One expert said recently that even if the wholesale gas price dropped to zero, we would still be seeing a rise in bills because of subsidies and previous OFGEM mistakes. These subsidies are being offered to the same offshore wind companies that do everything in their power to avoid employing UK workers, preferring instead to exploit poor foreign nationals on slavery rates of pay and working excessive hours.

We also see the bizarre situation of the Drax Power Station, another recipient of massive subsidies, which produces around 5% of power in the UK, and is the single largest source of CO2 emissions in the UK! Drax burns mature trees imported from Canada, which are apparently classed as a 'green biomass source' and form part of the Net Zero push! At the same time, Mr Miliband and his sidekick Michael Shanks continue with their briefs that offshore oil and gas workers are the 'dirty energy workers!' You really couldn't make it up! What happened to the promise when the Tories privatised the energy network and utilities back in the 1980s and 90s saying that the competitiveness in the markets would lead to cheaper bills forever, for all? Instead, transition costs for Net Zero will almost certainly see another £42 added to the average domestic bill, while businesses 'face transmission cost increases of 70% on average' and as indicated, this is just the start!

Talking of industry; we have seen the closure of the Grangemouth Oil Refinery, ending 100-years of oil refining onsite, and leaving Scotland as the only oil producing nation in the top 25 that doesn't have its own refining capability; the Lindsey Oil refinery has gone into administration, meaning the UK could potentially lose 40% of its refining capacity in 12-months; the last-minute rescue of Scunthorpe steel Works; and now the closure of the Mossmorran Petrochemical Plant. The common denominator here is the complete lack of a coherent, constructive plan for a so-called Just Transition, with the concept in the minds of Politicians being nothing more than a soundbite and an afterthought. While these crises have been well reported in the national press, the offshore/onshore oil and gas industry is currently losing around 1,000 jobs a month, the equivalent of 2 x Grangemouth and a Mossmorran every month! However, south of Dundee there is little or no press coverage on this and nothing that vaguely looks like a plan for a Just Transition.

We were told after the closure of the mines in the 1980s and 90s, and the Longannet Coal Power station in 2016, that governments would not make the same mistakes again, and a plan for a Just Energy Transition would be in place for the workforce. The promise from the Department of Energy that 400,000 new 'clean energy' jobs will be created, does absolutely nothing to help those that are being made redundant right now, another clear failure of policy. As one commentator put it; 'We need to sustain and create actual jobs now, not the political promise from government 'grid' announcements about future jobs…' To politicians, the term 'Just Transition' is just a convenient term they can spout to cover their appalling failures.

It's interesting to note that despite the closure of Grangemouth and the uncertainty about the future of Lindsey, the UK government has confirmed that a deal negotiated by the previous Tory government to provide a subsidy of £600 million to a refinery will go ahead. This subsidy, in the form of a guarantee, will be made to a refinery in – get this – Belgium! (one of 4 in a country that produces almost zero hydrocarbons) The guarantee is to build a petrochemical plant for Ineos, that's the same Ineos owned by Jim Ratcliffe, who was part of the consortium that closed down Grangemouth, and the plan is to build the biggest petrochemical plant in Europe for 30 years. At the same time, importers of ethylene will be exempted from the planned Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), while domestic producers are loaded with carbon taxes for emissions!

In my humble opinion, all of the above indicates that the relentless push for the unrealistic Net Zero 2030 does not take into consideration UK industry, a Just energy Transition, or real-world emissions, except in the mind of one man and a few of his lackies. Enough is enough, it's time they accepted they have got it ….. WRONG!

Budget Postscript - Having listened to the industry, trade bodies, supply chain, and trade unions representing the offshore workforce in the run-up to the 2025 budget, there was a glimmer of hope that ministers were prepared to act. Sadly, this was misplaced optimism, the sector didn't get a mention in the budget. The Energy Profit Levy (EPL/Windfall Tax) will remain at 78% until 2030, even although the Brent oil price has dropped from the $133 a barrel at the start of the Ukraine war, to $63 today. Why do the utility companies, who are openly ripping-off UK consumers and businesses, not have to pay this tax? The government also released its "North Sea Future Plan" a 127-page document that, apart from the confirmation that the EPL/Windfall Tax will stay in place, confirmed that future exploration would definitely be banned, while tiebacks will be allowed on existing fields.

This plan says that UK oil and gas 'will continue to play an important role for decades to come' and that a 'managed, orderly and prosperous transition' depends on continued investment in existing fields, but it doesn't say where this investment cash is going to come from? The report, according to many experts who know a lot better than me, is basically the death knell for the UK oil and gas industry. By the time the EPL/Windfall Tax ends, there will be little if any of the industry left, as companies invest in basins (including Norway) where the tax regime is developed as part of a structured plan for a genuine 'Just Transition.' PM Starmer has probably long given up on the dream of standing on the steps of Bute House in Edinburgh on 8th May 2026 shaking the hand of the new First Minister in Scotland, Labour Leader Anas Sarwar. His governments aggressive and gaslighting policies against ordinary workers and a world-class industry will have consequences, and I suspect his party will be lucky to finish 4th or 5th in the Scottish election next year.

The irony of the situation is that the government had an oven-ready route to a Just Transition for the energy sector, with the 'Our Power' report published by Platform and Friends of the Earth, and included a lot of input from the RMT Offshore Energy Branch and members of other unions. The confrontation route chosen by Starmer, Milliband and the rest, has instead alienated many offshore workers who had been willing to work towards this.

Unusually for me (I don't normally agree with this organisation) I'll leave the last word to Malcolm Webb, the ex-CEO of Oil and Gas UK, who on reading the North Sea Future Plan and reacting after the Budget, commented; **'Who would have thought that Just Stop Oil would become UK Government policy?'**

I know Labour inherited the Windfall tax from the Tories and took the line which they thought would please their supporters of lumping another 3% on top, but things have changed and they need to react. Creating Great British Energy was a positive start and it can be the foundation to build on, it is not too late, and Labour are probably the only political group likely to bring about the change we need. First though, they must be honest and accept the current plan is wrong.

I wish I could say have a happy Christmas, but I know for a lot of offshore colleagues that is not going to happen. I'll just wish you all the very best for the future in the hope things improve.

Scott Agnew

Tragic fatal accidents and regulation

In the early hours of Friday, 14th November 2025, an offshore worker was tragically killed on the Valaris 121 jack-up rig. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and work colleagues of Lee Hulse, the lad lost in this tragic incident. Lee was a 32-year-old roustabout with Valaris, he was from Aberdeen where he lived with his young family.

The Police and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are involved. The incident occurred during rig operations alongside the Shell operated Shearwater installation. The Police will file a report with the Procurator Fiscals (PFs) office and the HSE will conduct an extensive investigation and publish their findings and recommendations in a report which will also be filed with the PFs office. The Fiscal's office will then decide whether a prosecution will be necessary, or perhaps a Fatal Accident Inquiry. HSE will also engage with Valaris about findings and recommendations.

Regulatory gap - the regulatory approach for the accident which claimed the life of Lee Hulse differs from the approach to a previous fatality on the same rig. On January 22nd, 2023, Crane Operator Jason Thomas was reported missing from the Valaris 121 after apparently going through a grating into the sea. The 50-year old's body has never been recovered. This accident happened as the rig was under tow, which meant the Police and HSE did not have jurisdiction to investigate the accident. This is because during a tow, the rig is considered to be a ship/vessel. As a vessel, jurisdiction for investigating any accident changes to the 'flag state' which is determined by the flag flying over the vessel. The Valaris 121 has the flag of Iberia, meaning the death of Jason Thomas would be investigated by the authorities of Iberia, despite the rig working in the UK sector.

The HSE did subsequently visit the rig after it docked in Dundee and they did make recommendations about securing gratings. It was said the HSE would produce a report of their inspection/ investigations, as yet we are not aware of any HSE findings being released.

This 'Flag State' jurisdiction scenario applies to countless vessels/barges operating across the UK offshore energy sector beyond the 12-mile territorial waters. It is a regulatory gap we continue to campaign against, as it leaves thousands of workers out with the regulatory control and oversight of UK authorities, despite the fact they are working on UK energy infrastructure. This is another situation the UK Government needs to address.

Our sincere condolences to the families and friends of our lost offshore colleagues.

RMT Offshore Energy Branch

Taxed out of a Just Transition!

Oil and Gas Price Mechanism

The Energy Profits Levy (EPL or Windfall Tax) will now continue until March 2030, when it will be replaced by the so-called Oil and Gas (O&G) Price Mechanism. This Mechanism would be triggered when a barrel of Brent Crude reaches $90 a barrel, and gas hits 90p a therm.

North Sea oil production peaked around 1999 and I remember being told that companies are not interested in North Sea investment when oil is below $70 a barrel. The government says, in its 'North Sea Futures Plan,' that O&G will play an important role for decades to come, if managed properly with continued investment. You've got to ask; having to pay 78% tax on profits, with oil sitting at $62.20 a barrel, and gas at 64p a therm, where does the government think the continued investment is coming from? Why would an oil company invest in the UK when they can go anywhere in the world and pay a great deal less in tax! And there are endless opportunities to invest, as many regions are scaling up O&G activity!

The EPL tax was for 'excessive' profits: in the last year the top performer in the North Sea was Ithaca Energy with a profit of £153 million. Shell, Enquest and Serica made profits of between £143 and £93 million, whilst the biggest operator, Harbour Energy, (who have just announced another 100 jobs to go) made a £93 million loss. These are North Sea specific profits and not the global profit figures referred to by many who don't get the UK sector operating environment.

At the same time, the Bank of Scotland, Natwest, Lloyds, and Barclays (remember who crashed the economy in 2008) made £19-Billion between them. They all pay standard business/ corporation tax, with no profit levy or limits on bonuses. Greggs the baker made a profit of £153 million, the same as the best performing O&G operator, but no Sausage roll Profits Levy!

If the government can't replace the EPL with the O&G Price Mechanism right now, no amount of warm words in their North Sea Future Plan will convince the hard-pressed remaining offshore workforce that the UK Government is not engaged in an ideological, deliberate run down of the industry. In short, a Just Energy Transition will not happen for us.

Details provided

What a way to run a business!

Agencies, the good, the bad, and the ugly.

We thought we'd revive our occasional column exposing bad agencies and giving praise to good ones. (If we hear of any) It's the festive season, and these agencies are definitely more Grinch than Santa.

Select Offshore- this Essex-based agency has been reported by a few members. Apart from the usual ghosting, this outfit has been contacting members out of the blue (email, DMs on Linkedin, etc.) requesting CVs and certification, for jobs they say are a perfect fit for you. Documentation is sent, but there's no acknowledgement from them. If you chase them for a follow up, the standard reply from whoever is; 'I get over 500-emails a day, do you expect me to answer them all?' This gaslighting tone might be fair if someone has sent them an open CV, but when it's them doing the contacting, this isn't an excuse! It is not a great look for an agency that boasts - 'We don't fit the mould of a traditional recruitment agency, instead priding ourselves on being professional problem-solvers'. NOT!

Ogenus Offshore - have offices in Aberdeen and Athens, and are another outfit that boasts they 'respect those working through them and do things differently from traditional agencies.' Differently includes, WhatsApp messages at any time of the day or night asking for availability, then ghosting you afterwards. Another agency only interested in collecting CVs and certification it seems, without ever contacting you again.

Remember, if you're not happy with an agency holding your personal details such as CV, certification, passport and NOK, and they aren't actively seeking work for you, you can request under GDPR legislation that they erase all your information from their database. They then have a month to comply with your request.

It's the time of year when agencies you haven't heard from all year will phone and email you asking for your availability over the festive period, promising you further work throughout the year if you go. Don't feel pressured to do this, remember they will promise you anything to get you away at this time of year, then you'll wait another year to hear from them again!

An agency should be for all year, not just for Christmas!

Comment - will their plan fix employment practices?

A short-term, agency style employment model should not be tolerated for our most critical of industries? The UK Government must do something about this with their 'North Sea Future Plan' as treating people like a disposable commodity to be exploited as required cannot be the way to run the offshore energy sector! The agencies mentioned above are poor, the job-ads set out on this page illustrate just how poor the conditions can be.

The first one offers a day-rate of £250 (£20.58 per-hour (ph) for a 12-hour shift) but goes on to say it is 10-weeks on/5-weeks off. What sort of employer considers 10-weeks of 12-hour shifts to be safe practice?

Then we have the 'Seaworthy' offers with Job 1 offering you approximately 2-weeks at anything between £12.91 and £15.40ph for a 12-hour shift. And you must have all your certification in place! Job 2 offers £15.18ph, but you need pay your travel etc. out of that as subsistence is included. But hey, you'll get to share a cabin on the vessel, if you have your banksman cert. Jobs 3 &4 offer you £14.16ph, but you get an additional £17.50 a day for subsistence. This will be needed as you'll be living onshore and will have to provide your own accommodation and meals out of that! Once again you need additional certification.

We need your "Fair Work Charter" now Mr Miliband!

Fair Work?

Thank you for applying for the AB position on our website. Before continuing with your application, I wanted to give you all the details;

- Working on the Seaway Alfa lift
- 1 year project operating in the UK within the 12nm
- 10 weeks on/5 weeks off
- Rate: 250GBP per day – PAYE
- Wages paid onboard only – not on leave

Kind regards,
Crew Officer and Recruiter
OSM Thome

Seaworthy Consulting are looking for Deckhands to join a Crew Transfer Vessel. Please note STCWs must have been completed in last 5 years, and right to work in UK is required. Please state which role you are interested in and attach an updated CV to review.

JOB 1
Duration – approx. 2 weeks
Location – Wales
Day Rate - £155-£185 depending on certification
Start date – 11/08/2025
Ideally hold Banksman Slinger and AEC tickets

JOB 2
Duration – 3 weeks, potential to lead into regular work
Location – Scotland
Day Rate - £182.20 including subsistence
Start Date – 20th Aug 2025
Must hold Banksman Slinger
Ideally hold either AEC1 or Navigational Watch Rating
Accommodation – shared cabins onboard

JOB 3 (AND 4)
Duration – 4 weeks
Location – Northwest England
Day Rate - £170 plus £17.50 subsistence
Start date ASAP
Accommodation is shoreside
Banksman Slinger required
24hr ops require 1 day and 1 night deckhand

Recruitment Consultant
Seaworthy Consulting
PO Box 915, Altrincham, Cheshire

Skills drain

I'm a legal alien ... I'm a UK offshore worker abroad.

I'm someone who has spent most of his life travelling abroad for work, both as a merchant seafarer and offshore worker, but as I've got older, I've been more than happy to spend an hour or so in a chopper from a UK heliport, or get a train to a UK port and walk up a gangway. Better that than spending a day or two flying to the far east, South America, the Falklands, or spending years at a time working in Norway, or so I thought!

I've worked mostly in the UK since 2018. However, in the last year or so, due to the criminal lack of urgency of successive governments in putting a Just Energy Transition in place, I've noticed that jobs in the UKCS are becoming more scarce. The few that exist are agencies with disgustingly low rates as more people apply for fewer jobs. So, I've dusted off the passport, filled the bag for a month or 6-weeks at a time, and I've headed back to international travel.

In 2025, I've worked on the UKCS for a total of 5-days, the rest of the time, I've worked in places including Angola and Germany. The thought of spending 24-hours and 3 flights heading to Angola via Istanbul didn't fill me with joy, but it was better than being kept hanging on by UK agencies then being ignored, lied to, or offered wages that wouldn't even cover your certification renewal. Though my intention wasn't to travel internationally again for work, I've had some great new experiences and working with other UK workers.

I've also decided to pay taxes in the countries where I work in future, whereas in the past I always paid UK tax. If the government is happy to treat offshore workers with contempt and happy to see them heading towards a cliff edge, while claiming they are delivering a Just Transition but doing nothing, why should we pay tax in this country for the privilege? The threatened brain-drain and skills-loss from the industry to other basins that was forecasted hasn't just started, it's in full swing!

Details provided

Good and Bad News

Petrofac – good news for the troops!

Good news for all the Petrofac troops offshore that a buyer for the UK operation is likely to be announced very soon. (if it hasn't happened already) After a rough ride of not knowing if you might get paid or would have another trip, workers can look forward to some security at last.

Mergers - bad news for UK gov and workers

The returns from the UK gov's Windfall tax are already dwindling as the oil price sits below $70 a barrel, and returns will take another battering with the merger news. Shell have 'left the patch' after getting into bed with Equinor to create the company called "Adura" here in the UK. Coming fast on the heels of this one is the TotalEnergies and Neo Next merger which means Total have also 'left the patch.' Not only is this bad news for UK gov tax returns, it is bad news for workers with the merging companies as it inevitably means more redundancies!

All of this should make the UK gov look again at their so-called North Sea plan!

GBE Investment -good news for us all?

Great British Energy (GBE) have declared they are investing in the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, along with the National Wealth Fund and the Scottish National Investment Bank. Sounds like a great idea, and exactly what we have been calling for in terms of Public stakes in energy infrastructure to generate returns for the 'state' (that is everyone in the UK). This must be the way to drive down energy prices, the cost of living, eliminate fuel poverty, fund the NHS, and much more.

GBE say in the announcement that each of the three groups will have the option to invest £50m, which will boost the UK's clean energy ambitions and energy security. It goes on to say investors have each acquired an initial shareholding to participate in the development of the Pentland wind farm, which is off the north coast of Scotland.

However, there is nothing in the GBE announcement telling us what the returns to the state will be as a "shareholder" in the project? We thought shareholders received dividends and returns? We will ask GBE and let you know.

We all face an uncertain and worrying time as Politicians continue to gamble with our future, but we hope you all manage to have a happy Christmas, whether at home with your family, or offshore with your 'other family'.

Wishing you all the very best from the RMT/OILC Offshore Energy Branch

FFS! JOIN RMT

Scan this QR Code to join RMT or visit www.rmt.org.uk/join

Fighting For Standards!