

energy



OUTRAGE

offshore energy workers speak out **FLASH BULLETIN 2**

What's
my future?

OUTAGE 2 *Mixed bag of feedback*

A big chunk of this second edition of **OUTAGE** is a follow-up to the first edition after we got a fair amount of feedback good and bad! We will take onboard the 'bad' and try hard to improve, but for now here are a few of the reactions to the first edition along with other bits that have come in. Send your views and opinions to oilc@rmt.org.uk



Climate Talk - *where hot air meets cool intentions*

Leaderless - time to step up

Your first edition of **OUTAGE** was interesting. Most of it looked at the UK's failure to deal with energy transition and the climate emergency. I have to agree. In a world drowning in rhetoric, where leaders have mastered the art of saying everything and doing nothing, the climate crisis looms as an existential threat demanding more than just eloquent speeches. As politicians and corporate titans take centre stage, you cannot help but wonder: is it genuine climate leadership or just another round of virtue signalling?

The global stage has become a theatre of grand promises and commitments, with leaders donning the cloak of environmental saviours. Yet, as temperatures rise, glaciers melt, and forests burn, the dissonance between words and actions becomes painfully apparent.

Picture this: a world where carbon footprints are measured not in tons, but in political speeches. If this were the case, we'd be well on our way to carbon neutrality. Unfortunately, the real world demands more than well-crafted narratives and strategic photo ops. Who doesn't love a windfarm photo...

Politicians, often seen as the guardians of the public interest, have mastered the art of verbal acrobatics when it comes to climate change. They speak of carbon neutrality targets, renewable energy revolutions, and green economies. The question remains though: how many of these promises are backed by concrete action plans and meaningful policy changes?

The corporate world, with its kaleidoscope of sustainability reports and eco-friendly branding, is not exempt from scrutiny. As businesses compete for the spotlight in the green revolution, you cannot help but wonder if their

environmental commitments are genuine, or just a facade to appease an increasingly eco-conscious consumer base.

It's easy to talk the talk, but walking the walk requires a level of commitment that seems elusive to many leaders. It's not enough to merely acknowledge the severity of the climate crisis; action is the true litmus test of leadership. The urgency of the situation demands more than lip service—it demands a radical departure from business-as-usual.

While international climate conferences serve as platforms for leaders to showcase their green credentials, the real battle against climate change is fought on the home front. True leadership lies not in the grand gestures on the global stage, but in the day-to-day decisions that shape policy, regulate industries, and redefine societal norms.

Perhaps it's time for a reality check, where leaders are judged not by the depth of their speeches but by the measurable impact of their actions. It's time to strip away the veneer of virtue signalling and demand a genuine commitment to change. After all, the climate crisis is not a problem that can be solved with speeches alone; it requires leaders who are willing to get their hands dirty in the trenches of policy and innovation.

In the end, the question remains: are we witnessing true climate leadership, or are we being treated to an elaborate performance of virtue signalling?

The planet can no longer afford the luxury of empty words—it is time for leaders to step up, or step aside.

Industry analyst.



What's my future? *Sadly a question we cannot answer!*

As the article above sadly reflects, we have no leadership, no plan, no direction. Below is one member's view.

Got the new **OUTAGE**, good job but depressing. As if offshore workers don't have enough problems, the politicians give us more! For the Tories it's business as usual, they've back peddled on any would-be-plan and are leaving it to the market. Labour have binned their investment plan for a green economy and decided that taxing our industry is their plan if elected. In Scotland, the SNP are kicking the can down the road, delivering zilch!

Offshore energy workers are stuck in the middle of this s###, getting booted about like a political football! As you highlighted in **OUTAGE**, we can't even get the most basic things right like a safety passport. We keep hearing about the thousands of jobs that are coming, but where, when? We all know that more tax on the sector only means one thing for us – redundancies! We all know that most of the jobs in the sector are agency, short term, low paid and the sector is flooded with exploited foreign workers. We all know with the likes of Grangemouth and that Rat-cliffe, we will be binned at the drop of a hard hat!

Just transition if it ever existed, is dead! So please, can someone tell me – what's my future?

More real-life agency feedback and it's not good!



Name and shame!

After a couple of downturns and the pandemic, more and more offshore workers are being forced to take employment through agencies, as core positions dry up. In our first edition of OUTAGE we ran the article 'Life of an agency worker' and what a reaction we got! We don't have space for all the feedback here.

From the reams of agency complaints received, (about offshore and shipping positions) we've picked 2 of the most complained about agencies. You asked us to 'name and shame' them using your comments, so here we go!

ADVANCE GLOBAL RECRUITMENT; The main complaint about this agency is telling people they have - definitely secured a position and not to accept other work - only for the job to be cancelled at the last minute! No explanation and no apology. We've also had members claim they have been forced to be employed through an umbrella company, even though they were told it was a PAYE or a limited company position.

CLYDE MARINE RECRUITMENT;

This is the agency that supported DP World in the sacking of 800 seafarers on P&O Ferries in 2022 by providing the scab labour. The big complaint from members is; they've been at railway stations, airports or on trains, when contacted by Clyde Marine to say the job they were travelling to has been cancelled. Members are then refused any compensation, even for the travel fares they've laid out for.

These are the first featured agencies, we've got complaints about many more and will report on these in coming editions. If you've got a story or complaint about an agency, send it in for our 'name and shame' feature. On the flip side and for balance, if you have a good agency story, we can run that too.

There must be some good ones out there right?

How do they get away with this? *I thought we had the COTA agreement?*

I've just been sent a screen shot of a job offer from Aramark for a Steward/HDA job and I can't believe what I'm reading! I thought we had the COTA agreement?

The job is advertised as a temporary post on a Zero Hours contract and paid at - **£10.42 an hour** – I mean WTF! If that's no bad enough, they also want you to have all your certificates; DGBA; HOIT; HERTM; CAA Radio Op; Refuelling; Bosiet; MIST; and your OEUK medical. They are the essential courses to get the job, but they say other desirable training would include, First Aid and Twin Fall Coxswain courses really! This should at the very least be an Ad-Hoc contract and paid at the COTA rate which is over £20 an hour

But listen, on the positive side they say you'll get – "Discounted or free food" – I mean whoopdi-####indoo! What's going on here? This needs sorting out right away!

Response: We can report that all the details of this have been passed to the relevant RMT officer to take up with the company. Thank you for bringing this to our attention, we absolutely agree, this is completely unacceptable!



Get honest about size! *Too heavy workers?*

A few weeks ago, I read a headline saying that more than a third of North Sea workers are - too large to safely fit in lifeboats on UK oil and gas installations. Speaking as a former seafarer, I think that line is misleading.

The maritime sector has been looking at the issue of people size for years, because people around the world are getting bigger. I remember it getting highlighted on Cruise Liners where you get a lot of big people. The lifeboats on liners are the same as lifeboats on oil and gas platforms - they are designed for X amount of people each with an average individual weight of about 100kg. Believe me, a lot of passengers on liners are way above that figure! Life styles and eating habits have changed and people generally are bigger now than years ago.

What has not changed is the design of emergency equipment that people are expected to use, and it's not just lifeboats. This applies to the maritime sector generally.

What we really need is a global review of the design and manufacturing of emergency equipment. What we don't need is having a go at workers by saying they are 'too heavy!'

And, on the subject of emergency equipment and people size, can I ask why nobody has said anything about ramming sixteen people into that H175 helicopter? Have regulators or industry bosses tried that trip? You can't move, and you could do yourself an injury being jammed in an awkward position. In my view the risks of flying in those bloody machines is a bigger concern than lifeboats. I honestly don't see anyone being able to use their emergency equipment or getting out alive if that thing goes in the drink!





Say it as you see it!

HSE

I seen your bit about the HSE in renewables and speaking as somebody who's done Moray, Seagreen and now Dogger, I can say you're bang on the money. I've never seen an HSE inspector, never even heard them being mentioned. Safety on these operations is a bag o bones and when you raise safety you get told – Listen, this is no the oil and gas sector! We #####in know that, cos you wouldn't get away with this s##### if it was!

HSE

Have we still got the HSE? I've not seen an inspector offshore for years. Right enough I've been working on a walk to work vessel for a while now, so maybe they don't cover them, do they?

Response: *We are assured by the HSE they do cover vessels in the oil and gas and renewables sectors. Maybe you could ask a safety rep have you got one of them?*

HSE

Did the HSE ever investigate the Seagreen SF6 gas leak? I contacted RMT when we were evacuated from the Seagreen transmission platform after a SF6 gas leak and you told me you'd put the file in the hands of HSE. Did they ever investigate what happened? Was there a report of their investigation? The way they run that job was unbelievable. If the HSE are serious about regulating the wind sector they better get their fingers out because it's mad what's going on!

Response: *We did report your concerns to the HSE colleague, but we have never received anything back from the HSE. We will chase it up.*

GWO

Saw the OUTAGE saying we should call out the GWO and I hope you are. This mob are getting away with daylight robbery. I've shelled out a couple of grand on courses to learn - buggar-all – absolutely nothing I didn't already know through Bosiet and

STCW. Even the instructors on the courses got red faces when we spoke about it. This is like a scam, or fraud on a massive scale, and nobody's doing anything about it! You's call them out, not before time!

GWO

You need to call this mob out and it's more than just the passport. What about the bloody crap money some of the GWO member companies are paying! And what about the s##### contracts they try to make you accept!

Response: *We will run your full contribution in the next edition colleague, it is an excellent piece, thanks.*

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

You reported it was a "shocker" to see that offshore employers didn't complete a survey about Diversity and Inclusion. I disagree, it's not a shock. It was to be expected because, let's be honest, most employers in the offshore sector couldn't give a toss! I've been on installations where there's no female toilets, no changing areas, and worst of all no provision of female specific needs. I spoke to a HSE inspector about this and got told the HSE were still taking enforcement action against companies about this! Can you not do a Freedom of Information request on this and show they really don't give a toss about diversity?

Response: *Good idea colleague, we will try Freedom of Information.*

CHIPS GOING DOWN

I had to laugh at the report about chips being a health and safety issue in your OUTAGE. But I'll tell you what, if they cut down the chips on here it will be a safety issue, cos there will be a #####in mutiny! Chips are about the only thing worth eating on here, the rest of the grub is mingin! If I hear about them cutting chips down on here I'll give you guys a shout.

Fight for chips!

GRANGEMOUTH

I read the article about Grangemouth in the OUTAGE. I agree what is going on is a bloody disgrace, but I was wondering; what has it got to do with offshore energy?

Response: *the Offshore Energy Branch wanted to highlight Grangemouth for a couple of reasons, the main one being the obvious failure to give the Grangemouth workers any hope of a "Just Transition." Both the Scottish and UK governments say workers should not suffer with changes being made to address the climate crisis and the move to greener energy. That's not happening for workers at Grangemouth, the only refinery left in Scotland. If Grangemouth can be abandoned, what hope is there for workers on offshore oil and gas installations?*

Another key issue is the Forties pipeline, all the oil from the Central North Sea runs straight into Grangemouth. What is the plan for the pipeline with Grangemouth closed, and what does it mean for workers on platforms across the Central North Sea?

We are highlighting the lack of any energy transition plan. The private sector, both corporations and individuals, can just pull the plug when they feel like it! They have no interest in a 'Just Transition' for workers or communities. They can abandon the UK and we will all pay for it in terms of jobs, the economy, energy prices and much more!

FFS! JOIN RMT



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

Fighting For Standards!

Find us online at:

 [/RMTOffshoreNews](https://www.facebook.com/RMTOffshoreNews)

email: oilc@rmt.org.uk