



For Immediate Release  
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### **Hinkley Point C could be abandoned without risking power cuts**

Commenting on the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change's (Amber Rudd) letter to the Chair of the House of Commons Energy & Climate Change Committee, (1) Stop Hinkley spokesperson, Roy Pumfrey said:

*"The Minister seems to be leaving it up to the French Government to decide whether the UK will meet its climate change targets. And if the EPR reactors at Hinkley Point are delayed, which on past experience is almost certain, we could find electricity costs increasing yet further."*

*"Rather than waiting for the French Government and EDF to make up their minds, and then rushing forward with climate busting gas-fired power stations when things go pear-shaped, the UK Government should be supporting our world-leading renewable energy industry now, and implementing a proper energy efficiency programme."*

In the last few weeks Ministers have been caught misrepresenting how close the solar industry is to being able to build subsidy-free projects (2) and refusing to extend the grace period for onshore wind farms with planning permission hit by the early closure of the Renewables Obligation (RO). (3) And yet we know that Hinkley Point C will cost around £99/MWh over 35 years at today's prices compared with £67/MWh currently being paid to newly installed onshore wind farms for only 15 years. (4) And solar with storage and flexibility would cost roughly half the cost of Hinkley Point C over its 35 year lifetime. (5)

*"This Government seems to make up whatever nonsense it feels like to support its nuclear ambitions. (6) Yet the reality is that scrapping Hinkley Point C and going for renewable power instead would save the UK tens of billions of pounds. (7) Now Rudd says Hinkley could be abandoned without risking power cuts. The answer is obvious – time the Government stopped depending on this failed French reactor for our electricity supplies and climate targets and got on with promoting renewables."*

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- (1) Amber Rudd's letter to Angus McNeil MP, Chair of the Energy and Climate Change Committee, 12th April 2016 <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/energy-and-climate-change/UK-new-nuclear-correspondence-from-SOS-to-CHAIR.pdf>
- (2) Scottish Energy News 20th April 2016  
<http://www.scottishenergynews.com/yes-minister-solar-power-still-needs-help-to-achieve-grid-parity/>
- (3) Utility Week 19th April 2016 <http://utilityweek.co.uk/news/Rudd-blocks-longer-grace-period-for-onshore-wind-subsidies/1235752>
- (4) See Dr Dave Toke's Blog 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016 <http://realfeed-intariffs.blogspot.co.uk/2016/03/onshore-wind-schemes-now-being.html>
- (5) Solar Trade Association October 2015 <http://www.solar-trade.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Comparing-the-cost-of-electricity-generation-from-Hinkley-Point-C-with-solar-and-flexibility-mechanisms.pdf>
- (6) For more on this see Ecologist 19th April 2016  
[http://www.theecologist.org/News/news\\_analysis/2987577/renewable\\_energy\\_versus\\_nuclear\\_dispelling\\_the\\_myths.html](http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2987577/renewable_energy_versus_nuclear_dispelling_the_myths.html)
- (7) Guardian 5th April 2016 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/apr/05/scrapping-hinkley-for-renewable-alternatives-will-save-tens-of-billions>