

# PRESS RELEASE

PEMBROKESHIRE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

19th May 2026

## LABOUR MP ACCUSED OF BACKING TRUMP TACTICS

Pembrokeshire's MP, Henry Tufnell, has been accused of preferring the drill-baby-drill tactics of Donald Trump to the energy policies of his own government.

In March, the Labour MP had an article published in The Sun newspaper [1] in which he attacked the UK Government for saying no to new oil and gas drilling in the North Sea.

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth responded in a letter (see attached) which accused him of choosing right-wing propaganda ahead of thoroughly researched expert information.

A spokesperson for the group said:

“Henry Tufnell’s drill-baby-drill approach is supported by the likes of Reform UK and Donald Trump but is rejected by energy and climate experts. These have demonstrated that attempting to extract the small quantities of oil and gas that remain in the North Sea would not benefit the British economy as prices are dictated by international markets. They also show that investment in renewable energy systems, like wind and solar power, would bring far greater benefits. [2]

“The UK Energy Research Council, for instance, has stated that *‘squeezing additional oil and gas production from the UK will have negligible impact on the UK cost of living’*. It concludes that the priority for the UK should be to capture *‘the full economic and social opportunities offered by renewable energy’* and describes the sort of arguments put forward by Mr Tufnell as *‘a delusion’*. [3]

“The MP’s claim that further drilling for North sea oil and gas would boost employment is also kicked into touch. The Climate Change Committee has concluded that job losses in the fossil fuel sector due to the transition to net zero would be outweighed by *‘extensive job creation’* in sectors such as renewable energy, retrofitting and electric vehicles. [4]

“And the MP’s call for the removal of carbon taxes in manufacturing shows a massive ignorance of the threat posed by climate change and the urgent need to reduce it.

“The fact that the MP has refused to reply to our letter, despite promising to do so in a face-to-face conversation in Narberth in April, suggests that he either has more respect for a London tabloid newspaper than for his own constituents or is having difficulty justifying the viewpoints he presented in the Sun.

“We notice that another Pembrokeshire organisation, PARC against DARC, has also complained that the MP has failed to respond to a large number of emails sent to him on a local issue. [5]”

ENDS

For further information contact Gordon James on 07928888306

## NOTES

1. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/38598281/miliband-net-zero-labour-north-sea-drilling-harry-tufnell/>

2. Factcheck Nine false or misleading myths about North Sea oil and gas, by Carbon Brief:

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/factcheck-nine-false-or-misleading-myths-about-north-sea-oil-and-gas/>

The Climate Change Committee in a letter to Letter to Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy in 2022: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Letter-to-Kwasi-Kwarteng-Climate-Compatibility-of-New-Oil-and-Gas-Fields.pdf>

The National Energy System Operator has stated that Net Zero is the cheapest option for the UK:

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/net-zero-scenario-is-cheapest-option-for-uk-says-energy-system-operator/>

3. The UK Energy Research Council's paper *Drilling for Oil and Gas Will not Reduce Bills or Deliver Energy Security. Here's Why* (March 2026) <https://ukerc.ac.uk/news/drilling-for-oil-and-gas-will-not-reduce-bills-or-deliver-energy-security-heres-why/>
4. A Net Zero Workforce <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/a-net-zero-workforce/>
5. The Wikipedia entry for Henry Tufnell MP:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Tufnell\\_\(Welsh\\_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Tufnell_(Welsh_politician))