OEUK OFFSHORE DECOMMISSIONING CONFERENCE 2026

Enabling timely, responsible decommissioning

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WHO WE ARE

Regulating the whole offshore lifecycle

OPRED is the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning, part of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

We regulate offshore oil and gas from first development to final decommissioning.

The basin is entering its busiest decommissioning decade

Environmental regulation
Assessment, permits, inspection and enforcement across the life of a field

Decommissioning
Approving and overseeing decommissioning programmes under the Petroleum Act 1998

Working alongside
The NSTA on licensing and stewardship, and HSE on offshore safety

RECENT PROGRESS

Long-delayed decisions are moving

Brent decommissioning programme called for

A major step on a case under consideration since 2017

Across the basin: Jackdaw consented

October 2026: the first decision since the 2024 Finch judgment, taking account of Scope 3 emissions

A clearer route to decisions

Derogation guidance and decision sequencing so operators know what to expect



A PRAGMATIC REGULATOR

Pragmatism in practice

The Secretary of State and the government have set out a renewed approach to the North Sea. For OPRED, that means:

Flexible and proportionate
Effort matched to the risk and complexity of each case

Evidence-based
Decisions grounded in the facts of each case

Early and at pace
Engaging early to resolve issues and minimise rework

Balanced
Environment, safety, technical and cost weighed together

WORKING TOGETHER

A partnership that works both ways

What you can expect from us

- Open, constructive relationships with operators, OEUK, the NSTA and the supply chain
- Engagement early and at pace
- A genuine appetite for your feedback: where we help, and where we slow you down

What we ask of you

- Plan early and engage with us early, cultivating relationships on both sides
- Treat agreed timetables as firm commitments
- Put senior attention and resource behind delivery
- Raise emerging risks and issues as soon as you see them



OVER TO THE PANEL

Test us, challenge us, tell us what you think