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Jessica Fries
The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project
Clarence House
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26 September 2018

Dear Jessica

For over 70 years, SSE and its predecessor companies and boards have kept the core belief that energy provision is an essential part of modern life, on which people, organisations and businesses depend. This means that SSE must make decisions in a sustainable way, acting in the public interest and for the benefit of energy customers. SSE's proud past and its current success is the result of this way it makes decisions, embraces change, and adapts to economic, social and technological progress.

Therefore, accepting an invitation to be of part of His Royal Highness's Accounting for Sustainability (A4S) project, 10 years ago, was not a difficult decision for SSE. We have since 2006 had a core value of sustainability and making the correct long term decisions which aligned with the principal aim of the A4S project, to transform financial decision making.

Although developments were initially slow, His Royal Highness was not deterred in his vision, his passion and energy to drive this change within the finance community. Where others would have given up, and may have, he has persevered with determination and developed numerous initiatives, groups and educational opportunities to bring together a movement of finance and sustainability professionals to change a long standing historical accounting convention. A movement which now has the momentum and push to be self-perpetuating until it meets its goal.

SSE continues to believe in His Royal Highness's vision of empowering accountants to make a positive long term change. We were one of the first FTSE 100 companies to create a dedicated role of "Sustainability Accountant" within our finance team to build the evidence and identify the opportunities for change internally but also to work externally within our industry and with the A4S project to share knowledge with the hope of advocating real change. This investment amounting to millions of pounds on sustainability projects, training and development has been money well spent, with key financial decisions being changed for the betterment of society and the creation of significant longer term value for society.

It is now the long term we must look forward to and to the work that needs to be done in the future. A future where the next generation of accountants will be equipped with the skills, tools and abilities to make the correct decisions about how to account for issues such as the impact Natural Capital (Land and the ocean) has on a company's balance sheet. Or how the long-term effects of global



warming will affect a company's financial disclosure and its ability to generate a profit in the future. SSE is very much at the forefront of these issues as illustrated by our recent commitment to TCFD.

His Royal Highness has laid the foundations for this education plan and we must take the time during this year of birthday celebrations to thank him for his dedication but we must also make the pledge to do our bit for the future. It is therefore my pledge that SSE will seek to share our developments in Sustainability Accounting so that we can all grow together and help educate and equip the future generation of accountants to focus on achieving a more environmentally and sustainable world.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregor Alexander", is positioned above the printed name.

Gregor Alexander
Finance Director