

## REA Members Brief: *Greg Hands Political Biography*

As a result of the Cabinet reshuffle the minister for Energy at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has changed to Greg Hands. We have produced this short Biography so our members can understand Hands previous political career and sentiment toward renewable and clean technologies.

### *Greg Hands political Biography:*

Greg Hands was made minister of state for BEIS in the recent cabinet reshuffle. Hands has held several other senior positions in government, being the minister of state for international trade in 2016 and resigning in 2018 after his decision to vote against a third runway at Heathrow, which was against the party lines. In October 2019 he [wrote a letter to Kwarsi Kwawrteng](#) asking to know how the UK government is planning to meet its 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> carbon budget targets. DeHavilland lists Hands interests as Finance, foreign affairs, housing and local government. In the 2019 Conservative Leadership election, Hands supported Jeremy Hunt.

Greg Hands does not have a record of engaging with renewable or clean technologies in the House. Although in his role leading the UK-Japan trade deal, he has defended the UK's commitment to the net-zero 2050 target when asked by ministers. Hands' voting record in parliament also indicates moderate support for green technologies, with notable support for public transport. However, Hands has voted to stop rises in road fuel duty and has a mixed record on Hydraulic Fracturing regulation. He has also voted to reduce financial support for former coal plants now burning biomass in 2018, and in favour of proposed cuts to the feed-in-tariff in 2011.

### *Voting Record*

Below we have included relevant parts of Hands voting record, please use the hyperlinks in the headings which links to the original sources for your own research.

#### Transport:

- He has voted consistently against rail fare increases and for greater control over bus services, and increased taxes on plane tickets.

#### Environmental issues:

- Voted against financial incentives for low carbon emission electricity generation methods
- Mixed record on Fracking regulation, taxes for road vehicle fuel

THE ASSOCIATION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

Tel: +44 (0)20 7925 3570 Email: [info@r-e-a.net](mailto:info@r-e-a.net) Web: [www.r-e-a.net](http://www.r-e-a.net)

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- Generally voted against measures to prevent climate change, explicitly voting against financial incentives for low carbon emission electricity generation methods.

### Spoken contributions

Recent noteworthy contributions:

- [19/11/2020 Japan trade agreement](#) Hands defended the climate change and Paris climate agreement commitments would be made with the trade deal with Japan.
- [15/07/2021 Topical questions](#) Hands defended the government's position on cross border carbon emissions.
- [03/09/2020 Environmental Protection Standards: Future trade agreements](#) Environmental goods are low-tariff, with specific mention of export finance for solar and wind farms in Taiwan.
- [15/07/2021 Future Trade Deals: Environmental standards](#) Answered members questions relating to cross porter environmental standards

### Government and Shadow Posts

- Minister of State, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Sept 2021 –
- Minister of State, Department for International Trade Feb 2020 - Sept 2021
- Minister for London Jun 2017 - Jun 2018
- Minister of State (Department for International Trade) Jul 2016 - Jun 2018
- Chief Secretary to the Treasury May 2015 - Jul 2016
- Treasurer of HM Household (Deputy Chief Whip, House of Commons) Oct 2013 - May 2015
- Assistant Whip (HM Treasury) Oct 2011 - Oct 2013
- Shadow Minister (Treasury) Jan 2009 - May 201

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*If you have any questions about this briefing please contact [Freddie Kellett](#).*

*([fkelllett@r-e-a.com](mailto:fkelllett@r-e-a.com)).*