

[Ruth welcomes UK Government multi-million pound deal for the north east](#)

- [Home](#)
- [All News](#)
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A £5 million UK Government investment to boost the North Sea oil and gas sector has been welcomed by the Scottish Conservatives.

Leader Ruth Davidson said the cash – which will be used to survey under-explored areas – was proof the party was committed to securing the future of the industry.

On a visit to Aberdeen and Dundee today, Chancellor Philip Hammond said the money would boost jobs in the area.

He also reaffirmed the UK Government's commitment to a Tay Cities Deal, and paid tribute to life sciences and the creative sector in Dundee.

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said:

“The north east has faced tough times recently but there are still plenty more years left for the oil and gas industry.

“Encouraging exploration to identify potential new fields is vital and it is important to see this announcement of support from the Chancellor today.

“Every Scottish Conservative MP and MSP in the north east is determined to help secure a long-term future for the oil and gas sector – and we will be using the Chancellor's visit to press this case.”

And on Dundee, she added:

“The Scottish Conservatives are fully behind a new Tay cities deal and it's great to see the Chancellor giving it a vote of confidence today.

“There are huge opportunities for Dundee and the whole Tay region in life sciences and the creative sector.

“I want to see both the UK and Scottish governments doing all they can to make this a real Scottish success story.”