

## Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

### Next steps for UK critical minerals

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*

Draft agenda, subject to change



WESTMINSTER ENERGY  
ENVIRONMENT &  
TRANSPORT FORUM

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Critical minerals and key considerations for the UK - implementation of the refreshed Critical Minerals Strategy**  
**Professor Julia Sutcliffe**, Chief Scientific Advisor, Department for Business and Trade  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Policy and stakeholder priorities for supply chain security and strategic resilience in critical minerals**  
*exposure to geopolitical risks, such as export controls and sanctions / strengthening security of the UK's access to minerals critical for net zero technologies / diversification of sources and stable long-term supply agreements / addressing reliance on imports and over-reliance on a limited range of countries for refining and processing / development of UK international partnerships and trade agreements as a trusted partner on standards and responsible sourcing / boosting domestic capability in refining and processing / role of the Supply Chain Centre in mapping vulnerabilities and stimulating investment across manufacturing and clean energy supply chains / developing regional skills pipelines, workforce planning and industrial capacity for midstream and recycling / tackling planning and permitting barriers, grid connections and logistics constraints*  
**Dylan Khoo**, Battery Materials Senior Analyst, Argus Media  
**Kirsty Benham**, Founder and CEO, Critical Minerals Association  
**Mike King**, Vice President, Business Development and Government Relations, Cornish Lithium  
Senior representative, infrastructure  
Senior representative, workforce  
Questions and comments from the floors
- 10.20 **Research to support resilience - innovation priorities for UK supply chains**  
**Dr Gavin Harper**, Critical Minerals Research Fellow, University of Birmingham  
Questions and comments from the floors
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Priorities for retaining attractiveness in the UK as a destination for mining finance**  
Senior commentator
- 11.10 **Practical steps for securing the investment needed for critical minerals and developing strategic international partnerships**  
*mobilising public and private investment for critical minerals / the role of the National Wealth Fund and UK Export Finance / channelling green finance into mineral supply chains and low-carbon projects / developing practical risk-sharing approaches / insurance, guarantees and co-investment models / investment frameworks, disclosure expectations and international partners / strengthening the UK's role in transparent, liquid and responsible mining finance / trading, reporting and ESG standards / widening options for financial vehicles and facilities / practical and attractive proposals for investors*  
Senior representative, investment  
Senior representative, international  
Senior representative, exports  
Senior representative, legal
- 11.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 **Aligning critical minerals with the UK's net zero priorities and industrial decarbonisation goals**  
*clarity on lifecycle carbon and emissions accounting across extraction, processing, use and end-of-life / integrating circular economy principles of reuse, repair and recycling / expectations and assurance of ESG performance across supply chains / achieving deployment at speed alongside environmental and human rights safeguards / fostering low-carbon innovation in extraction, processing and recycling / building public trust / transparent disclosure and engagement with local communities and advocacy groups / coordinating policy and investment across energy, transport and industrial decarbonisation sectors / managing pressures on demand, infrastructure and business models*  
**Mike Blakeney**, Head, Government and Public Affairs, Cobalt Institute  
**Andreas Pasantas**, Principal Consultant, DNV  
Senior representative, circular economy  
Senior representative, sustainability  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum