

Onshore Wind Policy Statement

Overview

<i>General Comments</i>

Detailed Response

Specific Comments

Current Position	
1	Does this chapter provide a fair reflection of the current situation faced by Scotland's onshore wind industry?
N/A	
2	How can the maximum number of developments be enabled to build out without finance acting as a barrier?
N/A	
3	Can more be done to support the use of PPAs/Private Sector Finance? Is there a need for more policy signals from SG, and/or UKG, to provide investment security/surety?
N/A	
4	This section also underlines the Scottish Government's strong commitment to the role of community energy, and to community benefit and shared ownership. In what ways can we maximise the benefits of these policies as onshore wind development and repowering increases over the coming decade?
This creates an opportunity for more community spaces and visitor centres to support the local economy and encourage communities to enjoy open spaces and local amenities.	
5	What more can be done to ensure that financial mechanisms are available to support development at differing scales?
N/A	

Future Position and Net Zero	
6	What are your views on the installed onshore wind capacity that will be necessary over the coming decade, recognising the ambition Scottish Government have proposed for 8-12GW? Please share any evidence.
N/A	
7	What more can be done to capture the potential and value of hydrogen production from onshore wind and how best can we support the optimal integration of these technologies?
<p>It is imperative that when planning the location of hydrogen production in Scotland there is careful consideration of available water resources. All new abstractions must consider current and future water users at a catchment level as well as balance the water use needs of people, communities and the environment.</p> <p>The availability of water resource is very location specific. Scottish Water would wish to be consulted at an early stage if the proposed facility is located within a drinking water catchment. There may be specific water resource concerns. For instance, if the proposed facility is located within a ground water risk zone where public water supplies are come from boreholes and springs.</p> <p>Scottish Water would encourage all possible water resource options to be reviewed when developing hydrogen production facilities – potable water, raw water, recovered final wastewater effluent and sea water.</p>	
8	In what way(s) can we maximise the benefits of repowering over the coming decade?
N/A	
Barriers to Deployment: Technical and Reserved Matters	
9	We would be grateful for comments on the issue of aviation lighting and suggestions for the focus and outputs of the Aviation Lighting Working Group – what are your views on the assessment of aviation lighting and how this should be undertaken?
N/A	
10	We would also be grateful for your views on network charging and any of the other aspects set out under section 3.4.
N/A	
Barriers to Deployment: Environmental Factors	
11	What are your views on the integration of taller turbines in forested areas?

<p>Since storm Arwen, where whole forested areas were destroyed, consideration should be given to the possible impact on turbines and the subsequent potential for pollution incidents which could affect surrounding water courses.</p>	
12	<p>Can you provide best practice examples for effective peatland restoration (with carbon benefits) alongside the development of onshore wind?</p>
<p>Scottish Water encourages peatland restoration and believes that consideration should be given to peatland protection before, during and after construction, to protect the water environment.</p>	
13	<p>What, if anything, is not currently reflected in the good practice guidance for constructing windfarms, in relation to building on peat and other carbon-rich soils?</p>
<p>Scottish Water notes that changes in land use patterns in water supply catchments, including for forestry creation and drainage associated with wind farm developments, may have an impact on the quantity of water available for public supply. We encourage developers to consider the water resource impact of designs/land use proposals (drainage design, species selection etc.), and reiterate the importance of the existing planning consultation arrangements relating to developments in Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPAs).</p> <p>Our Sustainable Land Management team works closely with developers on this and has developed good practice that we would be happy to share. It would be the preference of Scottish Water if these areas were not used for the construction of windfarms/turbines where they are within a drinking water catchment area which supplies the public. The impacts of landslides, including their environmental impact, also need to be taken into consideration.</p>	
14	<p>From your own experience what can wind farm developments offer in terms of protecting and enhancing the natural environment, in particular through the planting of trees to compensate for those lost during windfarm development and through peatland restoration?</p>
<p>Peatland restoration and additional tree planting are welcomed by Scottish Water. However, it is important that we are consulted on any proposals so that risks to yield and water quality can be taken into consideration.</p>	
15	<p>Can you provide best practice examples of encouraging biodiversity protection and enhancement, including connectivity between natural areas in wind farm sites?</p>
<p>Glendevon Windfarm is a good example of best practice and is also within a Scottish Water drinking water catchment.</p>	
16	<p>What is your organisation doing to go above and beyond when it comes to biodiversity protection, conservation and enhancement in wind energy development sites?</p>
<p>Our Sustainable Land Management Team works closely with developers to build good working relationships with their environmental teams in the early stages of any development which may present a risk to drinking water quality.</p>	
17	<p>How can habitat management plans better balance protection of the environment with connectivity and the operation requirements of a site?</p>
<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Economic Opportunities</p>	

18	What support do Scottish companies need from Scottish Government and agencies in order to successfully bid for and win contracts?
N/A	
19	Should government consider options for introducing a sector deal similar to that of the Offshore Wind sector and if not, why is that your view?
N/A	
20	How can individual organisations (including onshore wind developers, tier 1 suppliers, and the domestic supply chain) work collaboratively to ensure that key manufacturing projects for Scottish onshore wind stays in Scotland?
N/A	
21	Circular economy and zero-waste are core principles that the Scottish Government are promoting. Where do you see the economic opportunities in relation to these policy issues lying with onshore wind? And are there any practical issues you think need to be addressed in order to maximise the benefits?
The location of a windfarm/multiple windfarms in drinking water catchments that supply public drinking water needs careful consideration if water quality or yield is affected.	
22	How can the Scottish Government best support skills for the future of the onshore wind sector? Specifically, we would be interested in oil and gas transition, apprenticeships and entry-level positions for young people, as well as any other experiences you can share.
N/A	
23	Do you have any views on the impact of wind farms on tourism?
N/A	
24	What is your organisation doing specifically to promote diversity and inclusion in the onshore wind sector?
N/A	
25	Given the significant contribution onshore wind is expected to make to our net-zero ambitions, and the structure of the ScotWind process for offshore development, should Supply Chain Development Plans be introduced for onshore wind developments in Scotland?
N/A	
Annex 1: Eskdalemuir working group and policy proposals –	
26	Does the above accurately reflect the current position in relation to the Eskdalemuir Seismic Array and the barrier it presents to deployment in Scotland?

N/A	
27	Acknowledging that the Scottish Government require further evidence before taking a policy decision, at this point and reflecting the options outlined above do you/your organisation have any thoughts?
N/A	
28	If Option 2 or Option 3 were to be selected, how could we best achieve or calculate an acceptable level of impact? (One example being an agreement of a standard noise budget to MW generated proportional allocation i.e., for X MW generated = X amount of budget allocated).
N/A	
29	Do you/your organisation have any thoughts on how the EWG might be restructured to ensure continued engagement for interested parties whilst maintaining the core purpose of the group?
N/A	
Annex 2: Aviation and renewables collaboration board	
30	We are clear on the value and importance of strategic and productive collaboration between the aviation and wind energy sectors. What are your thoughts on our proposed restructuring of the current effort and activity in this area, and the proposed Aviation and Renewables Collaboration Board?
N/A	
31	The work of the Aviation and Renewables Collaboration Board may identify and agree the need technical or strategic investment to achieve specific goals or outcomes. What are your views on how work of this kind might be financed?
N/A	

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