

SR Monthly Briefing

A round-up of the work SR is doing on your behalf



MONTHLY BRIEFING

DECEMBER 2018

Dear Member,

Last month was a busy one on the planning policy front, with Scottish Renewables hosting a seminar on landscape sensitivity studies and a new consultation launched on revisions to the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles on community benefit and shared ownership of renewable energy developments.



The Planning (Scotland) Bill also passed its second stage in Parliament, with a number of potentially detrimental amendments to projects defeated thanks to the political engagement work of SR and colleagues from other sectors.

The Scottish Renewables team is continuing to work hard to get the best outcome for members across all these areas and more in the coming weeks.

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GENERAL



Scottish Government Budget Briefing

Scottish Renewables submitted a briefing ahead of the publication of the draft Scottish Government Budget. We set out a number of areas where we believe the Budget could support the delivery of the Scottish Government's Energy Strategy, including additional funding for heat decarbonisation and innovation and by supporting a skills transition from the Oil & Gas sector.



Scottish Energy Advisory Board meeting

Jenny Hogan attended the latest meeting of the Scottish Energy Advisory Board last month.

The discussion focussed on key issues facing the energy sector in relation to Brexit, as well as progress on delivering the Scottish Energy Strategy.

Scottish Renewables and others highlighted the importance of greater action on low-carbon heat regulation and funding and the need for more timely, up-to-date energy statistics from government, among other points.

Committee appearance: New Climate Change Bill

Fabrice Leveque gave evidence to the [Scottish Parliament Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform](#) alongside representatives from the oil and gas, concrete and insulation industries. Scottish Renewables made the case for a firm date by which Scotland's emissions should be reduced to net-zero, to give a clear signal to business and the public of the ultimate goal for emissions reduction.

Scottish Renewables' second [public affairs podcast](#), by Public Affairs Manager Peter Speirs, covers Green GB Week and party conference season.

Westminster Reception

A reception in the Palace of Westminster, organised by Scottish Renewables, was attended by dozens of members and a number of MPs and Lords from parties representing Scottish constituencies.

The event was kindly hosted by Alison Thewliss MP, who represents Scottish Renewables and many of our members in the Glasgow Central constituency, and provided an opportunity for member organisations to engage directly with politicians from across the political spectrum.

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



New guides to corporate PPA markets

A [news release](#) issued by Scottish Renewables this week announced the launch of [two new guides to corporate power purchase agreements](#), developed in conjunction with advisor Schneider Electric Energy & Sustainability Services (ESS) and developer Brookfield Renewable.

Senior Policy Manager Hannah Smith said: "As PPAs emerge in the UK market we hope these guides will provide a useful tool to help businesses and renewable energy developers take advantage of this opportunity."



Next CfD auction budget notice issued

The UK Government [published a draft budget notice](#) setting out details of the next Contracts for Difference auction for 'less-established technologies' to be held in Spring 2019.

A total budget of £60m will be available across two delivery years (2023/4 and 2024/5), with capacity capped at 6GW. No minima or maxima will be set for any technology. Contact [Fabrice Leveque](#) to discuss.

Joint letter on business rates to Finance Secretary

[Scottish Renewables has signed a joint letter](#) from 21 of the country's leading business organisations to Scottish Finance Secretary Derek Mackay MSP urging him to reconsider the proposed new business rates levy on out-of-town premises.

SR pushes for Scottish National Investment Bank to work for renewables

Scottish Renewables has [responded to the Scottish Government consultation on the proposed Scottish National Investment Bank](#).

We made proposals around the Bank operating in 'gaps' in the commercial finance market, providing patient capital and supporting, in particular, innovative technologies.

PLANNING & CONSENTS



Planning (Scotland) Bill

Importantly, Scottish Renewables led a successful lobbying effort alongside several other trade bodies and business groups against changes to the planning appeals system. A similarly damaging amendment on wild land was also defeated after Scottish Renewables' lobbying efforts. The Bill will return for Stage 3 in the coming weeks.



Review of Good Practice Principles Consultation

The Scottish Government has launched [a consultation](#) to review Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments and Shared Ownership of Onshore Renewable Energy Developments.

No changes have been made to the GPPs for Community Benefits from Offshore Renewable Energy Developments.

The [consultation](#) closes January 31. Consultation workshops will be held across Scotland during January. Please provide any initial comments on this to [Stephanie Conesa](#) by December 28

SR-SNH joint Landscape Capacity Seminar

Scottish Renewables held a joint seminar with SNH last month to discuss the purpose, merit and use/application of landscape sensitivity studies, with particular consideration of taller turbines and subsidy-free projects.

We are continuing to work with members to identify potential ways of improving how landscape sensitivity is assessed and how this informs planning decisions. Please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#) for further details.

Infrastructure Delivery Group

Scottish Renewables participated in a meeting of the Scottish Government's Infrastructure Delivery Group. This group brings together infrastructure providers from a wide range of sectors

If you would like further details, please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

GRID & SYSTEMS

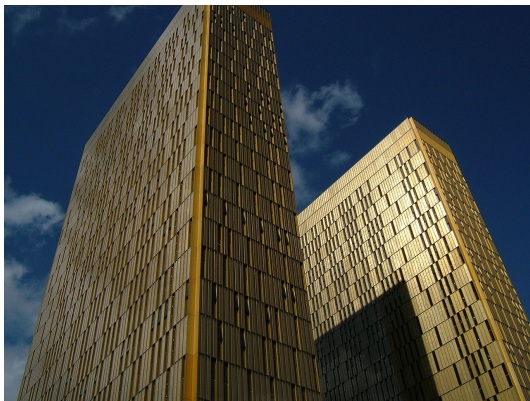


Targeted Charging Review: Minded-to decision and draft impact assessment

Ofgem is [seeking views](#) on its minded-to and draft impact assessment for the TCR: Significant Code Review.

The consultation proposes removing the BSUoS avoidance embedded benefit payment from distribution connected generators. It also proposes charging BSUoS to embedded generation. We are aware that this could have a very concerning impact on generators across both distribution and transmission.

The consultation will close on February 4 and Scottish Renewables will be responding. We will also be hosting a meeting in early January to discuss our response. Please contact [Joe Mitchell](#) if you would like to attend.



Capacity Market ruling

[The European Court of Justice has ruled that the Capacity Market breaches State Aid rules](#). Payments to generators under the scheme will be stopped and no further auctions will be held until a solution has been found.

[Greg Clark has publicly committed to Government responding swiftly while National Grid has set out that no supply risks this winter are expected.](#)

Scottish Renewables [recently responded](#) to a BEIS call for evidence welcoming moves to explore the participation of wind and solar generators in the Capacity Market and stating we believe market design should also allow pumped storage hydro to compete. We will continue to closely monitor the situation. Contact [Hannah Smith](#) with any queries.

The Scottish Renewables team visited the National Grid control room in November - at the same as the UK metered wind record was broken with over 12GW on the system.

National Grid discussed with us the range of system management tools used to accommodate renewables on the network.

Scottish Renewables is involved in a range of work streams on network operations. Contact [Hannah Smith](#) for more details.

LOW-CARBON HEAT



Holyrood renewable heat roundtable

Scottish Renewables hosted a roundtable with MSPs from Labour, the Conservatives and the Greens, setting out our policy asks of Scottish Government in relation to district heating, heat in rural areas and new builds. Download a copy of the [presentation slides here](#).



Consultation Response: BEIS Urban Biomass

We [responded](#) to a BEIS [consultation](#) on proposals to remove RHI support for biomass installations in urban areas with access to the gas grid. For further details contact [Fabrice Leveque](#).

Inquiry Response: Fuel Poverty Bill

The Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee issued a call for evidence on the new Fuel Poverty (target, definition, strategy) Bill.

Media reaction: Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Energy Efficient Scotland statement

Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Energy, Connectivity & the Islands, gave a Ministerial Statement in the Scottish Parliament on the Energy Efficient Scotland programme.

Responding, Fabrice Leveque, Senior Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, [said](#): “Weaning Scotland off dirty fossil fuel heat is absolutely crucial if we’re to meet our ambitious climate change targets and we welcome today’s announcement that the Scottish Government will take a closer look at how renewable heat can be rolled out more quickly.”

ONSHORE RENEWABLES



Claire Perry MP’s comments to the BEIS Committee

UK Energy Minister Claire Perry [appeared before the BEIS Committee](#) last month and, when pressed on the Government’s position on a route to market for onshore wind and solar, the Minister said there were “...no plans to carry forward that auction; that is the pot 1 auction...” and, in relation to wind, that “some of the numbers that are tossed around on cost comparisons are not necessarily particularly accurate”, with yield not being given enough attention.

We are in contact with Ms Perry’s office and BEIS officials who have sought to reassure us that the Minister does indeed understand the lowest cost arguments and her key point was in relation to the Government’s manifesto commitment. Contact [Peter Speirs](#) for further details.

Feed-in Tariff and the future of small-scale renewables

We are still awaiting a formal response from BEIS on the Feed-in Tariff, following submission of our [Call for Evidence](#) and [Consultation responses](#). An announcement is expected pre-Christmas but current events in Westminster make the timeframe challenging.

While Minister Claire Perry [made some encouraging remarks](#)

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points in our formal responses, SR has also begun discussions with Scottish Government on how to meet its Energy Strategy ambitions if the FiT does close in March with no clear replacement plan. For more information, contact [Hannah](#) Smith.



Scottish Renewables flies the flag for hydro and small-scale renewables in Brussels

Hannah Smith was invited to Brussels last month by Ricardo to speak at a [hydropower conference](#). Along with industry, and academic representatives from across the EU, representatives from the EU Commission were in attendance.

Scottish Renewables put forward the Scottish lead around local energy systems and small-scale hydro, and the value to all players created by EU funding support.

Scottish Government Hydro Group

Scottish Renewables hosted a meeting of the Scottish Government's Hydro Task and Finish Group where business rates, SEPA's work on charging and grid outages were discussed.

For more information on our work on hydro, and how SR is feeding into the Scottish Government, please contact [Hannah Smith](#).

Scottish Windfarm Bird Steering Group post-construction monitoring workshop

The SWBSG met at our office last month to discuss issues around post-consent bird monitoring at onshore wind farms, including suitability of existing conditions and availability of outputs. SR Policy Manager [Stephanie Conesa](#) was in attendance. Please get in touch if you'd like further details.

reuse

Researchers from the University of Glasgow and Aberdeen University have published a paper on how Scotland can maintain and replace its wind power infrastructure. This paper brings industry, regulators, and researchers together to better understand repowering, particularly in Scotland.

If you would like to attend a presentation on the paper please [register your interest](#). The paper is published on the [Open Science Framework website](#).

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



Crown Estate Scotland ScotWind Leasing

Crown Estate Scotland has published an [update on proposals for new offshore wind leasing in Scotland's waters](#), including potential timescales. The new offshore wind leasing round is to be called ScotWind Leasing. The [update](#) addresses feedback on [initial proposals](#) published in May. If you would like to discuss this contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

Crown Estate (Scotland) Bill

[The Crown Estate \(Scotland\) Bill](#) passed through Stage 3 of the Scottish Parliament. The Act formalises arrangements for the devolution of control over Crown Estate Scotland assets - creating the possibility that assets may be controlled by CES itself, local authorities, or community groups, and imposes new duties on asset managers. The Bill will receive Royal Assent in early 2019.

Offshore Wind Week activities

The offshore wind sector came together last month to celebrate the industry's successes, and Scottish Renewables worked closely with Lewis Macdonald MSP to secure a [Members Business Debate in the Scottish Parliament](#).

Members from each of the parties represented in the Parliament were effusive in their praise for the achievements and potential of offshore wind in Scotland.

roadshow of supply chain events for existing suppliers and new-entrants, organised by the Offshore Wind Industry Council and ORE Catapult. Our CEO Claire Mack presented at the Scottish event in Aberdeen.

You can [read more about our involvement in Offshore Wind Week in this blog](#).



Marine policy work update

Last month saw much focus on the [announcement](#) from BEIS that there would be no minima or ring-fence for any technology. It is our view that this effectively leaves tidal and wave developers locked out of the energy market.

Work to develop alternative support proposals has been continuing through the UK pan-trade-association Marine Energy Council , and these have been discussed with BEIS by Scottish Renewables and others in the sector.

Similarly, we continue to work with the Scottish Government's Ministerial Marine Energy Industry working group.

In the New Year we will hold an update meeting for all of our marine members, but in the meantime any questions should be directed to [Hannah Smith](#).

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