

SR Monthly Briefing

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

**Dear Member,**

August proved to be a pivotal month for small-scale renewables, with industry feeding into BEIS' long-awaited proposals for the future of the sector.

Having worked with our members over the last few weeks, we submitted [our response to the call for evidence on the future of small-scale, low-carbon generation](#), in which we call for a transition period out of the FIT to ensure small-scale renewables can deliver for rural economies and underpin the move to a smart, flexible, low-carbon energy system. We expect further consultation from Government in due course.



We are now preparing our response to the UK Government's consultation on the [proposed closure of the Feed-in Tariff scheme](#) and the [Scottish Government's consultation on business rates](#); the latter looking at implementation of recommendations from the previous rates review.

We are clear that small-scale renewable generation will have an important role to play in our energy system going forward and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the sector can do just that.

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GENERAL



Media comment on Scottish Programme for Government

The [First Minister has set out the Scottish Government's new Programme for Government](#), including £1.5bn per year planned investment in infrastructure, further ULEV charging infrastructure and upcoming legislation on a Scottish National Investment Bank. [Scottish Renewables commented](#).

Response to Climate Change Bill Parliamentary inquiry.

We have responded to an [inquiry](#) by the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee into the new Climate Change Bill. You can read our response [here](#).

Meeting with UK Government in Scotland Special Advisor

Scottish Renewables' Chief Executive Claire Mack and Director of Communications Nick Sharpe met with Elliot Roy, Special Advisor to the UK Government in Scotland, last month.

A wide-ranging discussion covered topics including Brexit, onshore wind, solar deployment in Scotland and further engagement opportunities between SR and The UK Government in Scotland (formerly The Scotland Office).

Summer intern

We were lucky enough to be able to take on a summer intern, who worked across our Business Services, Communications, Policy and Events teams to learn more about what SR does.

Lia Wood, a geography student at Heriot Watt University, came to SR courtesy of the [Robertson Trust](#). She tells the story of what she learned - and her first impressions of our industry - in [this blog on our website](#).

Meeting with First Minister's Special Advisor

Nick Sharpe, Scottish Renewables' Director of Communications, met with David Miller, Special Advisor to the First Minister, on energy matters last month.

Proposed increases in Section 36 planning fees were discussed, as well as interaction between the Scottish Government and the renewable energy industry more widely.

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



Capacity Market review

BEIS is [seeking views and evidence](#) on how well the Capacity Market and Emissions Performance Standard have been working and any opportunities for improvement, including a greater role for renewables.

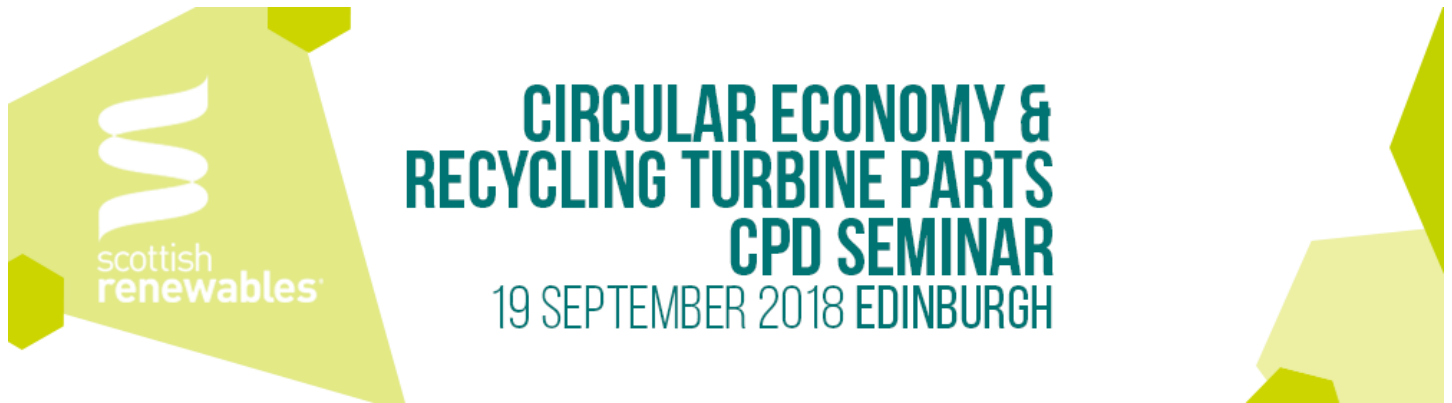
SR will be responding to the consultation. Please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#) with any comments.

Government responds to CfD consultation

BEIS has [published part two of its response to the recent consultation on changes to the Contracts for Difference scheme](#).

A second [consultation](#) has been issued seeking further views on the proposed changes. The deadline for responses is October 10; please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#) with any comments.

Updated CfD [contracts](#) have also been published.



Feed-in Tariff consultation and Call for Evidence

As detailed above, Scottish Renewables has responded to [the call for evidence on the future of small-scale, low-carbon generation](#) issued by BEIS.

We are now finalising our response to the consultation on the [proposed closure of the Feed-in Tariff scheme](#).

All comments, queries and feedback should be directed to [Hannah Smith](#).

Business Rates consultation

The Scottish Government is consulting on legislative measures required to implement recommendations arising from the Barclay Review of Business Rates.

In our [draft response](#), Scottish Renewables argue that (given the context of Feed-in Tariff uncertainty) the rates system could be improved to better respond to economic change, to support business growth and investment and to become more transparent.

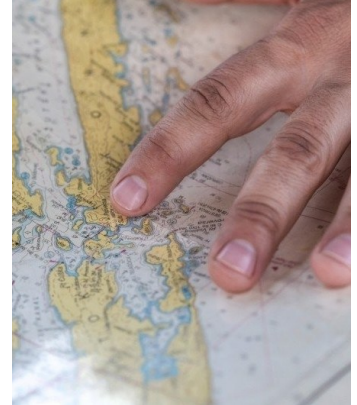
Scottish Renewables also attended a CBI roundtable on business rates, feeding into the [CBI's](#) pan-economy response.

PLANNING & CONSENTS



The Planning (Scotland) Bill is approaching its second Parliamentary stage. A raft of [amendments](#) have been published, including proposals for changes to appeal rights and the introduction of a 'purpose of planning', which will set out why the system is needed.

Scottish Renewables is working to help shape the Bill and recently attended a CBI Scotland roundtable discussion alongside representatives from a range of other sectors to discuss the Bill and its passage.



Update - Fees Charged for Applications under the Electricity Act 1989

The Scottish Government indicated in its consultation that changes to fees could be introduced in the second half of 2018. However, it is now the Scottish Government's intention that no changes will be introduced before April 2019. The consideration of consultation responses is ongoing

Further updates will be issued in due course providing details of any changes to fees which Ministers decide to take forward. Please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#) to discuss.



Planning Performance roundtable meeting

[Fabrice Leveque](#) and [Stephanie Conesa](#) attended a Planning Performance roundtable meeting hosted by the Scottish Government's Chief Planner alongside a range of individuals representing other development sectors across the economy.

If you would like further information on this, please get in touch.

SNH Cumulative Impacts on Birds guidance

SNH has published its revised guidance on ['Assessing the cumulative impacts of onshore wind farms on birds'](#).

Please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#) to discuss.

Update on representations made to Dumfries and Galloway Council's Proposed Local Development Plan 2

All representations received to Dumfries and Galloway Council's proposed LDP2 will be considered by Elected Members of Dumfries and Galloway Council at a full public Council meeting on Monday September 3, starting at 1:30pm in the main Council Offices, English Street, Dumfries.

Please contact [Shona McCoy](#) with any questions.

East Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study 2018

East Ayrshire Council has published a [Landscape Wind Capacity study](#) as non-statutory planning guidance. The findings of the study will be considered and used to inform the preparation of the Main Issues Report, which is currently underway, and Local Development Plan 2.

Please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#) to discuss.



GRID & SYSTEMS



Wider access to the Balancing Mechanism roadmap

National Grid has published [a guide](#) to its reforms to improve access to the balancing mechanism.

Reforming network access and forward-looking charging arrangements

Ofgem states that it does not consider that the current approaches to allocating and using capacity – and charging for the associated network usage – on the electricity networks can adequately address the challenges and opportunities associated with the changing energy system.

In [this consultation](#), the regulator set out its views on what it regards are the key problems with the current arrangements.

The consultation will close on the September 18. Please contact [Hannah Smith](#) with any comments.

ENA Future Worlds consultation on DSO transition

The Electricity Networks Association is consulting on '[Future Worlds](#)' as part of the Open Networks project examining the Distribution System Operator (DSO) transition.

The consultation, which closes at the end of September, sets out five scenarios ('worlds') through which a DSO model could operate. [We have prepared a summary briefing](#) and will be responding to the consultation.

All feedback is welcome - please contact [Hannah Smith](#) or [Joe Mitchell](#).



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energy networks
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LOW-CARBON HEAT

Call for Evidence: Review of Energy Standards

The Scottish Government [has launched a call for evidence](#) on tightening the energy requirement of domestic and non-domestic new build standards, with a view to delivering lower emissions from new buildings. Please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#) with any questions.



ONSHORE RENEWABLES



Joint repowering paper

Scottish Renewables has worked with RenewableUK and Energy UK to produce a briefing for policymakers summarising what repowering onshore wind farms is likely to entail and the strategic case for a supportive policy environment.

You can download the briefing [here](#). If you have any questions please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#).

SNH draft guidance: assessing the impact of repowered wind farms on nature

Scottish Renewables has responded to an SNH consultation on [draft guidance](#) to assess the environmental and landscape impacts of repowered onshore wind farms, raising several concerns with the proposed approach. You can read our response [here](#).

For more information please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).



Good Practice during Wind Farm Construction guidance review

Scottish Renewables has previously collaborated with SNH, SEPA, Forestry Commission Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and Marine Scotland Science on a [document](#) providing guidance on good practice during the construction of wind farms. The paper is currently being revised.

We call on members to provide your own case study examples of good practice to [Nick Sharpe](#), and any comments on the paper to [Stephanie Conesa](#) by September 5.

Solar - our work to date

2017-18 has been a busy year for solar at Scottish Renewables. A [mailing](#) issued this month details some of our activities on behalf of the sector, including blogs, consultation responses and our leadership position in the Feed-in Tariff fightback. For more details, contact [Joe Mitchell](#).

Press release: Solar Conference

Scottish Renewables' Solar Conference and Exhibition took place in Edinburgh on September 4. Ahead of it we issued a press release, telling how "solar's future after the looming 2019 FIT closure will take centre stage". It was covered by trade media including [Alt Energy](#) and [Energy Voice](#).

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



Energy PLUS: the socio-economic benefits of marine energy development

Scottish Renewables is producing a report outlining the wider set of socio-economic benefits of Marine Energy.

This paper will build on the [ORE Catapult cost reduction report](#) and will form part of the discussions at our [Marine Conference](#) on September 26 in Edinburgh.

The report will have a UK focus and will highlight the key 'sales pitch' for the sector above simple energy generation, in line with the UK Government's Industrial Strategy asks. This report will form part of the ongoing work via the Marine Energy Council on future support models and we hope it can be used to inform the Scottish Government's Marine Energy Group.

We are seeking your input in filling gaps in data around developer spend in the UK, public funding leveraged, UK content and jobs supported. Please get in touch with [Joe Mitchell](#) if you think you can contribute.

Crown Estate Scotland discussion document on new leasing for offshore wind

We have [responded](#) to Crown Estate Scotland's plans to award new leases for offshore wind project development in Scottish waters, as outlined in a recent [Discussion Document](#).

Please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#) if you have any questions.



Reaction: Scotrenewables achievement

Scotrenewables announced last month that its 2MW floating tidal stream turbine has generated over 3GWh of renewable electricity in its first year at EMEC in Orkney.

[Responding](#), Hannah Smith said: "This milestone for the tidal energy industry truly demonstrates the untapped potential of this emerging sector."

Scotland in the Offshore Wind Sector Deal

Scottish Renewables is working closely with Crown Estate Scotland, the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and a range of offshore wind developers and supply chain representatives to coordinate Scotland's involvement in the UK Offshore Wind Industry Council's (OWIC) Sector Deal proposal to the UK Government.

A Scottish Coordination Group has been established to help coordinate this work. For further details, contact [Jenny Hogan](#).

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