

Email to:

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Anna Leslie, Bill Team Manager
Land Reform Policy and Legislation Team
Scottish Government
3H South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh,
EH6 6QQ

13 September 2022

Dear Ms Leslie,

Response to: The Scottish Government: Land Reform in a Net-Zero Nation Consultation – 25 September 2022

Scottish Renewables is the voice of Scotland's renewable energy industry. Our vision is for Scotland to lead the world in renewable energy. We work to grow Scotland's renewable energy sector and sustain its position at the forefront of the global clean energy industry. We represent over 300 organisations that deliver investment, jobs, social benefit and reduce the carbon emissions which cause climate change.

Our members work across all renewable energy technologies, in Scotland, the UK, Europe and around the world, ranging from energy suppliers, operators and manufacturers to small developers, installers, and community groups, as well as companies throughout the supply chain. In representing them, we aim to lead and inform the debate on how the growth of renewable energy can provide solutions to help sustainably heat and power Scotland's homes and businesses.

Scottish Renewables (SR) welcomes the opportunity to provide our view on The Scottish Government's consultation on proposals for the next Scottish Land Reform Bill.

We broadly welcome and support The Scottish Government's commitment to "*ensure that our land is owned, managed, and used in ways that rise to the challenges of today: net zero, nature restoration, and a just transition*".

In responding to this consultation, our members have highlighted the following points as being of particular importance:

- Renewable energy projects already incorporate many of the ambitions proposed in the Scottish Land Reform Bill, particularly with regards to community consultation, community benefit, land management plans, Just Transition and demonstrating their contribution to climate and biodiversity targets.
- In line with Scotland's obligation to achieve net-zero by 2045 and with the imminent publication of The Scottish Government's Onshore Wind Policy Statement Refresh, there will be a significant increase in Scotland's onshore wind fleet from the current 8GW to 20GW by 2030. Much of this deployment is likely to be in areas and on land holdings subject to the next Land Reform Bill.

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- In drafting this new legislation and the accompanying policy, it is essential that they do not inadvertently undermine the further deployment of onshore wind and other renewable energy projects which are essential to achieving Scotland's net-zero obligations.
- We are particularly concerned that renewable energy projects could potentially be required to undertake two parallel processes to satisfy the requirements of both renewable energy legislation and policy and land reform legislation and policy.
- To prevent such duplication of effort it is essential that there is coherence between existing renewable energy legislation and policy and the new legislation and policy brought forward by the Land Reform Bill.
- To facilitate this approach, we recommend that the Land Reform Bill Team liaise with their colleagues in The Scottish Government's Onshore Wind Policy and Development Team and the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) to ensure coherence between these two areas of Scottish Government ambition.

Scottish Renewables would be keen to engage further with this agenda and would be happy to discuss our response in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



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Scottish Renewables

END