



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener,
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Sent by email to:
Netzero.committee@parliament.scot

21 December 2022

Dear Edward,

PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL ONSHORE WIND POLICY STATEMENT

We are pleased to inform you that today we have published the Final Onshore Wind Policy Statement. As you know the statement was published in draft for consultation on 28 October 2021 with stakeholders asked to respond by 31 January 2022. A summary of stakeholder responses to the consultation was published on 26 July 2022.

This final statement sets out our ambition for 20 GW of onshore wind by 2030, more than doubling our current deployment of 8.7 GW (as of June 2022), and will support the transition to net zero¹.

Scotland has long been a forerunner in onshore wind deployment and, while other renewable technologies are reaching commercial maturity, continued roll out of onshore wind will be key to ensuring our 2030 targets are met. Onshore wind can be deployed quickly, is good value for the consumer as one of the cheapest forms of electricity, and has generally positive public support.

The statement considers the benefits of, and challenges to, onshore wind deployment (such as the interaction with aviation) and outlines how we will work with our partners, industry bodies and the UK Government to expedite solutions to impediments to deployment.

¹ [Scottish Energy Statistics Hub \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io)

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Environmental considerations are also critically important and the statement therefore sets a commitment to convene an expert group, including representatives from industry, agencies and academia. This group will provide advice to the Scottish Government on how guidance could be developed to support both our peatland and onshore wind aims.

As the statement sets out, we will establish an Onshore Wind Strategic Leadership Group tasked with pushing forward progress against the issues set out in the Policy Statement, including ensuring that people in Scotland benefit from the further deployment of onshore wind.

The statement also provides a series of case studies which set out best practice examples, including examples of good land management, collaborative working and shared ownership projects.

Finally the statement sets out a Vision for onshore wind in Scotland. This was developed in conjunction with industry following a roundtable event that I chaired and will form the basis of discussions on a sector deal that we hope to announce with industry in 2023.

I am also pleased to inform you that the Scottish Government will be publishing our draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (ESJTP) for consultation in early January. The Strategy will update the 2017 Energy Strategy and takes into consideration the recent, fast-moving events in the energy sector. I will be writing to committee with a full update on the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan in the new year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who responded to the consultation and worked with officials to ensure that the final Onshore wind Policy Statement reflects an achievable ambition for the future of onshore wind in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL MATHESON

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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