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Dear Edward,

I am pleased to inform you that the Scottish Government has today launched a public consultation on Community Benefits from Net Zero Energy Developments <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836910855> which will be open until 11 April 2025. The public consultation is part of our review of the 'Good Practice Principles' for community benefits from onshore and offshore renewable energy developments.

Through the consultation, we want to gather a wide range of views from across communities, industry and public and third sector stakeholders to ensure that our guidance supports sustainable and meaningful outcomes from community benefits. Throughout the consultation period, the Scottish Government will be undertaking engagement, both in person and online, with key stakeholders and seeking views to help shape the future of this work.

Community benefits schemes are a well-established, integral part of renewable energy developments in Scotland, fostering a positive relationship between renewable energy businesses and local communities. These schemes saw over £30 million offered by renewables developers in community benefits in the last 12 months. I am determined that we build on this success, to ensure that Scotland's renewable energy resources continue to deliver significant benefits to our communities, putting them at the heart of our green energy transition. I welcome the Parliament's interest in this important topic and will continue to update Parliament as this work progresses.



GILLIAN MARTIN

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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