

John McNairney  
Chief Planner  
Built Environment Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-H South, Victoria Quay  
Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

30 April 2020

Dear John

### **NPF4 Call for Ideas – Supplementary Papers**

I am writing to you as a follow-up to the NPF4 Energy Roundtable on 05 March 2020. While this was an extremely useful event, during the discussion several issues were raised that were of concern to the SR membership. These issues related to; the levels of additional deployment of renewable technology that will be required to achieve Scotland and the UK's net-zero ambitions; onshore wind developments and peat/carbon rich soils; the use of Landscape Capacity Studies; suggestions that areas of search might be introduced to spatially plan for onshore wind; and the treatment of wild land in the planning system.

We have already set out positions on these issues in our NPF4 Position Statement previously submitted to the Call for Ideas. However, in light of the comments made at the roundtable discussion, we have produced a set of five supplementary papers that provide more detailed explanations and set out the underpinning evidence for the points made in our Position Statement. We hope that you and your team will find these more detailed papers helpful in the development of NPF4.

At the roundtable we also highlighted the issue of how the Climate Emergency and Scotland's net-zero ambitions are addressed in planning decisions made between now and the NPF4 coming into effect. It is our view that a Chief Planner's Letter stating that addressing the Climate Emergency and achieving Scotland's net-zero target should be a material consideration in the determining of planning applications would effectively address this situation. In our members' experience Chief Planner's Letters on renewables matters have very definitely had a positive impact and a letter is very much needed to clear up the current uncertainty which exists as evidenced by various recent decisions.

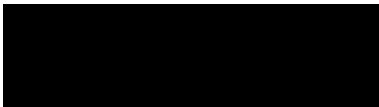
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During our phone conversation on 28 April 2020, we discussed the impact that the current measures to control the spread of Coronavirus are having on our members' planning applications. We have subsequently been asked by civil servants to provide a summary of the issues the pandemic is causing for the renewable energy industry. We have included a copy of this summary with this letter to provide further information as you and your team seek to address the current situation.

We trust that these supplementary papers will be helpful in the development of the NPF4 and look forward to your response to our request for a Chief Planner's Letter. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Morag Watson | **Director of Policy**

**Enclosed with this letter:**

- SR NPF4 Supplementary Position Statement – Climate Change and Deployment Targets
- SR NPF4 Supplementary Position Statement – Peatlands and Carbon-Rich Soils
- SR NPF4 Supplementary Position Statement – Landscape Capacity v Sensitivity Studies
- SR NPF4 Supplementary Position Statement – Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind
- SR NPF4 Supplementary Position Statement – Wild Land
- Coronavirus – Renewable Industry Issues