



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mrs Agnes Johnston
2 Atholl Street
Dunkeld
PH8 0AR

29th January 2014

Ref: JS/CS

2 Na,

RE: DULATER WIND FARM

Further to the concerns you raised with me recently regarding the prospect of a development of a windfarm on the Dulater site between Dunkeld and Blairgowrie, I now enclose a reply I have received today from Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism.

I hope this is helpful to you.

Yes

John Swinney

Enc

JOHN SWINNEY

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire North

Parliamentary Office:
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5717

Constituency Office:
35 Perth Street
Blairgowrie, PH10 6DL
Tel: 01250 876 576

Email: john.swinney.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Website- www.johnswinneymsp.com

Ministear airson Cumhachd, Iomairt agus Turasachd
Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism
Fearghas Ewing BPA
Fergus Ewing MSP

F/T: 0845 774 1741
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Mr John Swinney MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Aiba



LEGACY 2014
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES
SCOTLAND

Ur faidhle/Your ref: JS/CS
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0000231
23rd January 2014

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 17th December 2013 on behalf of your constituents regarding their concerns about the prospect of a development of a wind farm on the Dulater site between Dunkeld and Blairgowrie.

This proposal was scoped by Scottish Ministers on the 15th of February 2013 and a copy of the scoping opinion can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Infrastructure/Energy-Consents/Applications-Database/Wind/dulaterhill/dulaterhillscoping>

The developer is now in the process of preparing the application and has indicated that they intend to submit the formal application for consent in the first quarter of 2014. I would encourage your constituent to actively engage with the developer at this stage who will be currently undertaking a programme of pre-application community consultation. It is at this stage that the views and concerns of the community can be discussed with the developer which may shape the final design of any potential development application.

If an application comes forward it will be considered by Ministers under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and will be subject to a full and formal consultation. Copies of the Environmental Statement will be placed in various local locations and members of the public will be given the opportunity to submit representations.

To comply with the Electricity works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Scottish Ministers have to consult the Local Planning Authority, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage and internal government consultees which includes Transport Scotland, together with other parties who may have an interest in the development, taking advice on matters relating to visual amenity, cumulative impacts, hydrological issues and road networks.

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.scotland.gov.uk



In addition, Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act places on the developer a duty to have regard to the desirability of preserving the natural beauty of the countryside, of conserving flora, fauna and geological and physiological features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest. The issues raised in your letter of roads and traffic management, wetlands and Lunan Lochs will, I expect, be considered by the Planning Authority in the course of the process.

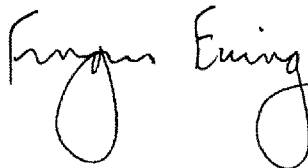
In relation to the financial support offered to developers, The Renewables Obligation Scotland provides a subsidy to renewable energy generators (for developments of over 5MW) for the renewable electricity that is generated. This subsidy will only be realised once the development has been commissioned and is supplying electricity to the grid).

Both the Scottish and UK Government have reduced the level of support for onshore wind by 10% from April last year. This reduction was arrived at on the basis of rigorously vetted and published evidence on costs and likely deployment. The UK Government's Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) commissioned a report which helped inform the banding review and explains the way in which renewable generation costs are calculated. This is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-generation-costs-and-deployment-potential-of-renewable-electricity-technologies-in-the-uk-study-report-by-arup>

It is also worth bearing in mind that forthcoming Electricity Market Reform means significant changes to the way renewables are supported with the Renewables Obligation being replaced with Contracts for Difference, the details of which are still being finalised by UK Government.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Yours Sincerely



Fergus Ewing