

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 4-1

CLEAN POWER 2030 4-1

ONSHORE WIND SECTOR DEAL..... 4-2

PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGETS 4-2

REFERENCES 4-4

Introduction

- 4.1 **Chapter 4: Policy Context**, of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report outlines the main policies of relevance to the determination of the planning application. It sets out a summary of the planning and regulatory context in relation to the key topics covered in the EIA Report, and also looks at the wider policy context in relation to climate change and renewable energy and other material considerations. The Chapter does not form a judgement on the Proposed Development's compliance with the policy framework at the time of submission, as this is addressed in the Planning Statement accompanying the application.
- 4.2 All the information contained in **Chapter 4** of the EIA Report remains valid unless stated otherwise in this Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) Chapter.
- 4.3 The following Technical Appendices associated with **Chapter 4** of the EIA Report remain valid:
- **Technical Appendix 4.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance.**
- 4.4 Since the submission of the application in August 2023, the UK Government has published the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (2024), the Scottish Government published the Onshore Wind Sector Deal (2023) and there have also been updates to the progress on Scotland and the United Kingdom meeting renewable energy targets. This SEI Chapter provides a summary of these updates.

Clean Power 2030

- 4.5 The 'Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity' (UK Government, 2024), published in December 2024 sets out the actions required to accelerate delivery of clean energy across the UK by 2030 and defines the UK Government's role in the clean energy transition to work with industry to unlock barriers and to take an innovative approach.
- 4.6 The Action Plan states:
- "Clean power by 2030 will herald a new era of clean energy independence and tackle three major challenges: the need for secure and affordable energy supply, the creation of essential new energy industries supported by skilled workers in their thousands, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit our contribution to the damaging effects of climate change. Clean power by 2030 is a sprint towards these essential goals."*
- 4.7 The Action Plan sets a target of achieving 27-29GW of operational onshore wind in the UK by 2030. As at quarter 2 of 2024, there was 14.2GW of operational onshore wind capacity in the UK, with a further 4.4GW committed or under construction. There is therefore a significant gap to be filled to reach the 2030 target for operational onshore wind capacity. The Action Plan notes that:
- "Scotland's significant renewable energy potential, strong pipeline of projects, and growing supply chain will be essential to achieving a secure, affordable and clean power system across Great Britain. Scotland's renewable energy capacity continues to grow, with a strong pipeline of future projects that will play a key role in decarbonising the power system across the UK."*

Onshore Wind Sector Deal

- 4.8 On 21 September 2023, the Scottish Government published 'The Onshore Wind Sector Deal'. The deal sets out the commitments from the Scottish Government and the onshore wind farm industry to deliver 20GW of onshore wind energy by 2030. The Government and the onshore wind farm industry's commitments within the deal include:
- support the enhancement of current skills and training provisions through further higher education and training to focus on delivery of the needs of the wind industry;
 - continue to collaborate with local communities, building on good practices to enhance its existing 'good neighbour' approach through engagement at all stages of the project's lifecycle and offering impactful community benefits and practical routes to shared ownership;
 - new onshore wind projects will enhance biodiversity and optimise land use and environmental benefits;
 - reduction in time taken to determine section 36 applications for onshore wind farm projects by increasing skills and resources, and by streamlining approaches to scoping EIA Reports;
 - develop evidence to support a more strategic approach to delivering the investment in our electricity network and to inform a coordinated approach to the transportation of wind turbine components across Scotland's road network; and
 - deliver cooperative coexistence between onshore wind deployment and safe aviation operations.
- 4.9 It is considered that the Proposed Development would contribute to the 20GW of onshore wind energy which could be connected to the grid network by 2030.

Progress Towards Targets

- 4.10 The Climate Change Committee (CCC) produced a report to the Scottish Parliament entitled 'Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland' in March 2024 which concluded that Scotland's 2030 climate goals are no longer credible.
- 4.11 Further to the CCC Report, the Cabinet Secretary made a statement to the Scottish Parliament on 18 April 2024 entitled 'Climate Change Committee Scotland Report – Next Steps: Net Zero Secretary Statement' noting that:
- The Scottish Government has an "*unwavering commitment to ending our contribution to global emissions by 2045 at the latest, as agreed by Parliament on a cross-party basis*".
 - "*And with this in mind, I can today confirm that working with Parliament on a timetable, the Scottish Government will bring forward expedited legislation to address matters raised by the CCC and ensure our legislative framework better reflects the reality of long-term climate policy making.*"
- 4.12 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024, which came into force on 23 November 2024, abolished the 2030 and 2040 interim targets, and introduced the framework for a carbon budget-based approach for setting emissions reduction targets which matches the approach taken at the UK level and in Wales.
- 4.13 The Scottish Government consider that carbon budgets, which cover a five-year period, provide a more reliable and consistent framework for assessing sustained progress in the

actions and policies that contribute to ensuring that the overarching goal of net zero emissions by 2045 is achieved.

- 4.14 The most recent CCC's progress report to the UK Parliament 'Progress in reducing emissions' was published in July 2024, noting that *"urgent action is needed to get on track for the UK's 2030 target"*. The CCC Report goes on to identify priority actions noting that *"the UK should now be in a phase of rapid investment and delivery. Yet almost all our indicators for low-carbon technology roll-out are off track, with rates needing to significantly ramp up. By 2030: annual... onshore wind installations will need to double"*.
- 4.15 Energy Statistics for Scotland - Q4 2024 (March 2025) (latest available) notes the following key achievements:
- *"A record 38.4 TWh of renewable electricity was generated in Scotland in 2024 – a 13.2% increase compared from 33.9 TWh in 2023."*
 - *In 2024, there was 17.6 GW of renewable electricity capacity in Scotland – a 14.3% increase from 15.4 GW in 2023."*
 - *As of the end December 2024, there were 904 projects with an estimated capacity of 65.4 GW in the planning pipeline in Scotland. Of these, 640 were renewable electricity generation projects with an estimated capacity of 37.5 GW and 264 were electricity storage projects with an estimated capacity of 27.9 GW."*
 - *Scotland continues to generate more electricity than it needs. In 2024, there was 19.7 TWh of net electricity exports to other UK nations"*.

References

Climate Change Committee (2024a). Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland – 2023 Report to Parliament Available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/progress-in-reducing-emissions-in-scotland-2023-report-to-parliament/> Published March 2024. Accessed on: 05 March 2025.

Climate Change Committee (2024b) Climate Change Committee Scotland Report – Next Steps: Net Zero Secretary Statement. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-change-committee-scotland-report-next-steps/> Published 18 April 2024. Accessed on: 05 March 2025.

Climate Change Committee (2024c). Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland – 2024 Report to Parliament. Available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/progress-in-reducing-emissions-2024-report-to-parliament/> Published 18 July 2024. Accessed on: 05 March 2025.

Scottish Government (2023). Onshore Wind Sector Deal. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/onshore-wind-sector-deal-scotland/> Published 21 September 2023. Accessed on: 05 March 2025.

Scottish Government (2024). The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024.

Scottish Government (2025). Energy Statistics for Scotland – Q4 2024 Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/energy-statistics-for-scotland-q4-2024/> Published 27 March 2025. Accessed on: 01 May 2025.

UK Government (2024). Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity. Available at <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677bc80399c93b7286a396d6/clean-power-2030-action-plan-main-report.pdf> Published 13 December 2024. Accessed on 20 March 2025.