

THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT CONSULTATION. It introduces proposals by the UK and Scottish Governments (UKG and SG) for speeding up the planning system in Scotland for on- and offshore wind projects and network grid projects.

Some of the proposals will seriously impact the ability of communities to have their say on these major developments, so it is very important that **AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE RESPOND BY THE DEADLINE OF 29TH NOVEMBER 2024.**

There are 10 parts to the consultation. Each part of the consultation ends with a series of questions to be answered.

We have prepared [a template in table form](#), with input from [Scotland Against Spin](#) and others, showing (1) a summary of the consultation text in the 1st column (2) the questions in the 2nd column and (3) the responses and issues to raise.

Feel free to use this as a guideline for your response **in your own words**, as well as to add any other comments you have. One concern could be e.g., about ensuring that the lifetime CO₂ emissions of windfarms are negative. You could also sign up for Scotland Against Spin's [petition](#). We think that the following points are particularly important to make:

1. Pre-application requirements
 - i. **IMPORTANT: EIA REGULATIONS SHOULD APPLY TO ALL ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE WINDFARM APPLICATIONS**
 - ii. The public should be consulted in a meaningful way.
 - iii. The consenting/local authorities should be in control of the pre-application process, not the applicant.
 - iv. Responses to the pre-application document should be sent to the consenting/local authorities, not just the applicant.
 - v. There is no provision for data and privacy protection.
 - vi. There need to be at least 2 consultations in EACH Community Council area affected.
 - vii. There needs to be a timescale of at least 2 months (8 weeks) for consultations in rural areas to take place. **A total of at least 20 weeks should be allowed for the Pre-application phase, and another 12 weeks for the Acceptance phase.**
 - viii. For network projects a multistage consultation process should take place.
 - ix. Consultations should include all parts of the project (generation and transmission).
 - x. Communities need specialist and financial support to respond effectively.
 - xi. Developers should be legally required to set out and consult on what community benefit would look like for the communities affected and legally required to deliver it.
2. Application information requirements
 - i. Meaningful alternative approaches (e.g., undergrounding, or offshoring transmission lines).
 - ii. The balance between profit, impact on people and the environment (climate and nature).
 - iii. The community benefits to those people and communities impacted by the development.
3. Application input from statutory consultees
 - i. Statutory consultees Community Councils need additional specialist support, enough time to consult in dispersed rural communities and financial support.
4. Amendments to applications
 - i. This should take into account any negative comments from statutory consultees and communities in an open and transparent way.
5. Public Inquiries
 - i. **IMPORTANT: WE DO NOT WISH TO SEE ANY WATERING DOWN WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC INQUIRIES** which currently allows individuals and communities the right to present their concerns and supporting evidence.
6. Variations of networks projects
 - i. **IMPORTANT: WE DO NOT AGREE THAT THIS SHOULD BE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF SG. THIS MUST INCLUDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITIES AND PLANNING BODIES TO GIVE INPUT AND OBJECT.**
7. Variation of consents without an application
 - i. **IMPORTANT: WE DO NOT AGREE THAT THIS SHOULD BE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF SG. THIS MUST INCLUDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITIES AND PLANNING BODIES TO GIVE INPUT AND OBJECT.**
8. Fees for necessary Wayleaves (Access to private land to put in pylons etc)
 - i. Agreed.
9. Statutory Appeals and judicial proceedings
 - i. **IMPORTANT: WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THE APPEALS PROCESS.** The proposals make it harder for 3rd parties to appeal successfully by reducing both the avenues available and the timescale for getting organised and raising funds to support the appeal.
10. Transitional arrangements
 - i. **IMPORTANT: WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN RESPECT OF THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.** In particular, they should NOT include applications already being processed by SG.

You can see the full papers [here](#), and you can respond by answering the questions via this [link](#). However, any form of response is legitimate and responses can, if more convenient, be submitted by email to this address: scottishelectricityconsenting@energysecurity.gov.uk.