

**House of Commons
Environmental Audit Committee**

A sustainable energy strategy? Renewables and the PIU review

Submission of the British Wind Energy Association

Supplementary note

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Q48. In the Planning for Wind Energy booklet, the suggestion for Wales' contribution is for an additional 8%, not 80%. The current contribution from Wales is ca. 30% of UK installed capacity.

Regarding the distribution across regions of the UK in terms of installed wind energy capacity, we have prepared the following advice. We have calculated that, at the time of writing, Wales represents 30.6% of the capacity in the UK with 145.5MW capacity; Scotland 30.8% (146.44MW); England 30.8% (146.555MW) and Northern Ireland 7.8% (36.94MW).

72.6% capacity of new wind power projects constructed in 2001 were in Scotland, and 66.7% of those confirmed for construction in 2002.

All but two of the schemes determined in Scotland since June 1999 have been approved. These decisions add a further 190.642MW installed capacity, some of which has been already been commissioned. Of 20 applications submitted over this period, only 4 have gone beyond the local planning process, all of which were compulsory under Section 36 of the Electricity Act (1989) for plant over 50MW capacity. No applications are going through the appeal process.

The oldest outstanding application was submitted in July 2000, one of five dating from that year. A further nine were submitted in 2001, and one in the first month of 2002.

By contrast, the most recent project to come online in Wales, after a gap of three years, was Parc Cynog with only 3.6MW capacity, officially opened by the Energy Minister in December 2001. Only a further three approvals have been granted since June 1999 which combined represent an additional 9.5MW, or 4.9% of new UK capacity confirmed for construction in 2002.



Of those schemes that have been processed by the local planning authority and are not currently awaiting a determination, 30.02% of potential installed capacity (8 out of 18 schemes) has been turned down. This compares to 2.47% in Scotland, or 2 refusals from 16 submissions. 64.78% of potential capacity (6 out of 18 schemes) has been taken beyond the local planning system in Wales (i.e. called-in, gone to inquiry or taken to appeal following refusal), of which only one is compulsory. Compensating for this, 41.3% of capacity submitted (103.213MW) has been taken out of the hands of local determination. A more remarkable feature of this is that 40.6% (41.925MW) had already been approved at a local level.

The oldest outstanding application in Wales dates from September 1998; the resulting joint inquiry held between September 2000 to March 2001 has still not returned any decisions; indeed, our understanding is that the decision committee has not yet been formed.

By the end of 2002, Wales' expected contribution is forecast to be as low as 25.7% of UK wind energy capacity, despite its abundant resource.

At mid-day on the day of evidence, the Scottish Executive published their *Planning Advice Note 45: Renewable Energy Technologies*. It is available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/planning>. The equivalent revised Welsh note has since been announced and is currently in the consultation process. See <http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanning>.

The Committee specifically requested a note in response to two questions:

Question 1 (relates to Q66).

Assuming an equal distribution over each of the eight years (which is not the case in the Renewables Obligation profile) and assuming that you mean 1600GWh, we assert that it is realistic. The following is an illustration.

Assuming a typical Vestas V66 1.65MW machine, installed in conditions of 8m/s and with 95% availability, approximately 365 machines (i.e. one per day) would be necessary to produce in total by the end of the period, the additional 14,400GWh that corresponds to the extra 5% discussed by the Committee.

We must emphasise that this is an illustrative calculation: larger or smaller machines and/or better or worse wind regimes would influence the actual number. Equally, this calculation assumes more development offshore than onshore; were this to be reversed we would project that a proportionately higher rate of deployment would be required.

However, it is technically possible to achieve such a rate of deployment, given satisfactory planning, market and regulatory conditions. By way of illustration, in Germany during 2001, 2,659MW of new wind capacity was installed, equivalent to 7.28MW per day. Typical turbine sizes installed were 1MW+, therefore the number of turbines was in the order of five per day. A similar rate of deployment has been achieved in previous years, for example 1668MW in 2000, (4.75MW/day, 19 machines per week). German capacity is now 8750MW, approximately 3.5% of national demand.

Question 2

The 'one-stop' or 'two-stop' shop for planning consent.

The planning history of the Blyth Offshore project is unique, being a combination of the first of its type and of its location that required some additional consents. A separate note is being prepared listing these consents.

Blyth Harbour Wind Farm

Consents/agreements obtained from 1996 to 2000

Consent/Licence	
Coast Protection Act	DETR
FEPA Licence	MAFF
Crown Estate Lease	Crown Estate
Crossing watercourse	Environment Agency
Lease	Blyth Harbour Commission
Wayleaves	Blyth Harbour Commission
Planning consent for cable route and connection building	Blyth Valley Borough Council
Planning consent for cable route	Wansbeck District Council
Harbour Act	Blyth Harbour Commission
Fishing Agreement	Blyth Fishermens Association
Site investigation agreement	Crown Estate

We suggest that the DTI's consents unit (ORCU) might usefully furnish the committee with their current understanding of necessary consents, including those that concern public rights.

Other Corrections/supplementary information

Q74. Around 15,000 are now employed in the Danish wind energy industry. The Danish Association calculates a total of ca. 50,000 jobs worldwide. The German Wind Energy Association now claims 30,000 directly and indirectly employed by its domestic wind industry. The Isle of Lewis wind farm is projected to generate approximately 150 manufacturing jobs and a similar number in construction of the scheme. Further employment will be created in the related sub-sea cable laying necessary to bring the output to the mainland.

Q80. This should be NETA, not NATO. (New Electricity Trading Arrangements). "The proposal..." might more accurately be given as "...may *alternatively* be a threshold".

Q99. "wisdom from *ETSU*" not "...Exeter" (Environmental Technology Support Unit)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N.G.', with a horizontal line underneath.

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