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17 July 2018

Dear Charles

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT: SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE – RENEWABLE  
ENERGY**

I refer to the correspondence dated 24 April 2018 certifying notice of Scottish Borders Council's intention to adopt the Supplementary Guidance on Renewable Energy.

Scottish Ministers have decided that the Supplementary Guidance – Renewable Energy is unsatisfactory and hereby direct under section 22(8) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, that Scottish Borders Council modify the Supplementary Guidance – Renewable Energy as indicated in the Annex to this direction.

This direction is considered necessary to ensure that the Supplementary Guidance clearly reflects the policy position set out in Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) in relation to re-powering of wind farm sites. Specifically this relates to paragraph 174 of Scottish Planning Policy.

I would be grateful if you would therefore confirm that your authority will modify the Supplementary Guidance as directed.

Yours sincerely

**Robin Campbell**  
Senior Planner

## Annex

### Direction

Page 61 – Chapter 8 - Repowering

#### **Second paragraph should read:**

'It is acknowledged that where existing turbine infrastructure exists there is an opportunity to re-use this when the lifespan of turbines expires and also to make turbine outputs more efficient. It is also acknowledged that turbines are now manufactured to increasingly greater heights, partly due to increase efficiency and the loss of subsidy. The fact a wind farm exists on a site, which would be picked up in an EIA, ~~should be~~ is a material consideration to any repowering planning application and repowering offers opportunities to consider improvements to site layout and reassess environmental benefits. However, as part of the repowering process in instances where turbine heights are proposed to be increased, quite significantly in many cases, there are significant issues to be addressed. Existing turbines have been approved taking great care to consider how they will be fitted into the landscape, a procedure which regularly involves amended plans, reductions in heights and numbers and the finished approved heights are ultimately justified in any decision notice either by planning officials or Scottish Ministers. To increase the height of turbines could be contentious in many instances as higher turbines raises new parameters in terms of matters such as their prominence and suitability within the landscape and impacts on receptors. ~~It therefore cannot be considered that such proposals will be fait accomplis on the grounds that turbines already exist on the site and such proposals should be considered de novo.'~~