

Meetings

1. **28/06/2017 Meeting between the Minister and officials to discuss the emerging options for the purpose of the Government owned Energy Company.**
2. **02/11/2017 4-weekly Ministerial meeting**

Minutes

1. **[REDACTED]** – **main action** is that Mr Wheelhouse would like interim update on POEC long list of options sometime next week – for him and Mr Stewart. We can talk about how to handle on Monday but I would have thought that a short update without prejudice to further work could be produced after the workshop. He was very clear that he wanted to see the full long list.
2. **[REDACTED]** – **[REDACTED]** mentioned at the meeting that, after the FM's announcement on POEC, SSE had published what they had already said on this proposal as part of their response to dES. SSE are not on the list of those responding to the GOEC question which we have from the consultants analysing the responses, so I haven't seen what they have said. Please could we find this and make sure the consultants analysing the responses have included it in their considerations.
3. **[REDACTED]** – Minister mentioned that he would like to pursue with BEIS consumer protection powers for DH. I said we were already pursuing at an official level but would chase. I assume we haven't heard back from Kirstin on my earlier email? If not, can you draft a letter from Mr Wheelhouse on this point.

Other points to note:

- **[REDACTED]** – Minister mentioned the recent intelligence that EIB will no longer be interested in funding marine energy projects in the UK and Chris agreed to consider how SG might support the development of industrial activity for marine, including through loan guarantees. I don't know if there has been any prior conversations about this with Finance/Richard Rollison. I will ask Chris what he is considering and we can pick up after that if appropriate.
- **[REDACTED]** - also on marine, Minister not sure if he should support Tim Cornelius's position on trying to get CfD pot "leftovers" for marine. I don't know where we are on this in terms of providing advice?
- **All to note** that main sensitivity on finalised ES is likely to be the messaging on renewables - the new TIMES run reduces the contribution renewables will be expected to play in meeting CC target – technically from about 44% to about 38%. This takes it a long way off the 50% 2030 target we consulted on. Of course TIMES is only a tool to help inform policy and not a rigid plan, but nevertheless this gap between TIMES modelling and the target (if we keep it) may attract attention. There is some thinking currently around diluting target to

“clean energy” but I think this won't help messaging. This is a live issue so let me know if you have any comments.

Stewart Maxwell attended the meeting and I spoke to him afterwards about CS and CAS. I'll update [REDACTED] on that separately but in essence he was relaxed about current issue.

3. 04/10/2018: Paul Wheelhouse Officials Meeting on PEC

Minutes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and I met the Minister on 4 October to update him on recent developments with the development of the public energy company.

We updated the Minister on recent discussions with local authorities; the commissioning of the outline business case and the recent EEFW Committee Session on the public energy company. We also updated the Minister on the recent FOI request.

In terms of next steps the Minister was happy, subject to diary, to be involved in the local authority event that will feed into the outline business case. We will offer further advice on that in due course.

[REDACTED –OUT OF SCOPE]

[REDACTED]

4. 19/12/2018 - Paul Wheelhouse Officials Meeting on PEC

5. 30/10/2018- 'PEC - meetings - note of Paul Wheelhouse call with COSLA Cllr Heddle

Minutes

All

I supported PW in his call with Cllr Heddle COSLA's portfolio lead for Economy and the Environment. [REDACTED] was also on the call for COSLA.

Purpose of the call was to follow up PW's letter of 28th August and reiterate our offer to work in partnership with COSLA to deliver this as a shared agenda. Timing is helpful as the economy and portfolio board meet on Friday to discuss their response to the letter. [Mr Matheson is also attending that meeting but will leave before that agenda item; [REDACTED] have put background b into the briefing for awareness.]

Summary – whilst unable to pre-empt the conclusion of Friday's meeting the discussion was very positive and I noted Councillor Heddle referring to local authority enthusiasm for the approach 3 times. Key themes I took from the discussion were : importance of company as a route to tackling fuel poverty; particular issues facing island and remote rural areas; and the importance of local flexibility (though no suggestion what this means in practice; particularly given the product being sold is a commodity).

One point that I was surprised that did not come up – even in passing was governance. ([REDACTED] asked me later why PW had not referred to co-design as partnership could mean anything including just telling people what we are up to; my response was that whilst I may use the word co-design Ministers are more eloquent and when we use the term partnership we mean it.)

Detail

- PW stressed that we wanted to build on what local authorities have done and are planning and not reinvent the wheel. This supported the discussion of links to supporting other initiatives eg EV roll out.
- PW noted in conversation that if local authorities were accepting a level of risk only right that they got some return. (This is a comment that SOLACE made on Friday and I mentioned briefly in passing to PW before call; he deployed after a brief nod in the direction of local authority finances.)
- Follow up – brief call with [REDACTED] later and I pressed for early read out from Friday's meeting and more in-depth policy level follow up. One ask we will pursue of COSLA – which I think they offered when Jamie and visited last month – is a trawl of local authorities to get a more robust understanding of which councils are planning/ thinking etc in this space.

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

- Councillor Heddle cross referred to the Energy Efficiency meeting on Thursday seeing links to heat work. (This could be where we see local flexibility could come in.)
- Councillor Heddle asked for timeline to moving towards generation. PW cross referred to outline business case as evidence for such decisions and I reiterated no preconceived view; part of the discussion with local authorities (who have powers already).
- PW stressed that a key criteria for the company must be good product and service.
- The island issues that Councillor raised in the space of the energy company were – reliance on off-the grid gas; transmission charges;

and impact of prepayment meters. PW constructively managed expectations as to the degree to which a public energy company could impact but noted other work such as the consumer energy action plan.

- Final question from Councillor Heddle about where Our Power fitted in given our investment. At the time this took me by surprise as that company has not really come up in discussions with local authorities but on reflection may come from OIC engagement with Our Power. PW replied that we did not intend to create an unlevel playing with existing suppliers but to provide added value and support public benefits. I added in (pedantically) to note that our investment to Our Power was on the basis of loan funding in the context of supporting a social enterprise focused on tackling fuel poverty; and in practice Our Power could a potential supplier of the white label – but the critical point will not be the who but the collective specification of the terms of any white label contract.

[REDACTED]

6. **16/05/2019 PW energy company, SECC – 10:00 – 10:30**
 - **Officials meeting with Mr Wheelhouse**
7. **19/11/2019 Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands – 16:00-17:00 - Meeting With Public energy**
 - **Officials meeting with Mr Wheelhouse**

Minutes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 January 2019 18:01
To: Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Public Energy company - note of meeting 19 December

[redacted]

Officials met Mr Wheelhouse to update on the development of the public energy company ambition and also connections to the consumer agenda. In particular we discussed engagement with COSLA on offer to work in partnership to deliver the ambition and links to the wider energy efficiency agenda, development of the outline business case and the recent EEFW Committee report into a 'publicly owned energy company.' We also discussed the Ofgem price cap and the developing Energy Consumer Action Plan. In both contexts we identified the importance and ongoing work to maximise linkages to the fuel poverty, islands and rural agendas.

[redacted]

[redacted]

21/10/2020 Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands - FW: 1530-1615 - Pre-Meet ahead of Committee Debate on Energy on October 27th
- Officials meeting with Mr Wheelhouse

02/02/2021 Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands - 14:30-15:15
- Meeting with Officials on Public Energy Company
- Officials meeting with Mr Wheelhouse