

**FOI Ref 202200287837**

Information requested for the time period August 2017 – 11 October 2021 is covered in a previous FOI publically available at: [Information regarding publicly owned energy company: FOI release - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Public Energy Company: Outline Business Case. Publically available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-energy-company-outline-business-case/pages/4/> Published 30 November 2021.

**MICASE: Case Ref. 202200277471**

**From:** [shirley-anne.somerville.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:shirley-anne.somerville.msp@parliament.scot) <[shirley-anne.somerville.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:shirley-anne.somerville.msp@parliament.scot)>

**Sent:** 31 January 2022 18:14

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <[CabSecNetZET@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNetZET@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Scottish Public Energy Company (Case Ref: SS6196)

Good afternoon,

I am writing on behalf of Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP who has been contacted by her constituent [redacted], [redacted] regarding a Scottish Public Energy Company.

Please find an email below from [redacted] which I trust you will find self-explanatory. Shirley-Anne would be grateful if the Cabinet Secretary could consider the questions her constituent raises and respond.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

[redacted]

**[redacted]**  
**Caseworker**  
**On behalf of Shirley-Anne Somerville**  
**MSP for Dunfermline**

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From: [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@hotmail.com](mailto:[redacted]@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: 24 January 2022 09:42  
To: Somerville S (Shirley-Anne), MSP <[Shirley-Anne.Somerville.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Shirley-Anne.Somerville.msp@parliament.scot)>  
Subject: Scottish Public Energy Company

Hi Shirley, last week in the BBC programme, Question Time, the SNP MP Mairi McAllan mentioned the Scottish Public Energy Company. I cannot remember

precisely what she said.

I've looked on the Scottish Government website and there is a lot of information on what the Government will do but little information on what has actually been delivered in terms of the Outline Business Case.

I'd appreciate it if you would provide some detail on the current position of the Outline Business Case and Public Energy Company.

Regards,

[redacted]

**MACCS: Case Ref. 2017/0037295**

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@eneropp.com]  
Sent: 10 October 2017 17:49  
To: First Minister; Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot  
Cc: angus.robertson.mp@parliament.uk; [redacted]

Subject: Public Energy Company - how can we help

Dear Nicola,

I watched your recent speech with interest as both a Scottish citizen and SNP voter. It was with mixture surprise and excitement that I heard you intend to start a domestic

energy supply company that is publicly owned to sell power at as close to wholesale price as possible.

The excitement stems from the fact that I work in the industry and am based in Scotland. Myself and my business partner have now helped several UK energy companies to enter the market, we are actively working with one starting in Scotland right now that want to provide domestic storage solutions in order to reduce householders bills - potentially below wholesale price. Another one of those new entrants was an English council that is seeking to benefit it's citizens in a similar way to the supply company you have just announced and to help alleviate energy poverty.

At this stage, the information that I've seen made publicly available is sparse naturally

given it was only recently announced; however I want to express our desire to be involved if there is any way we can help. We know the industry well and the senior management teams in most of the common suppliers that will be needed to make this

happen quickly and cost effectively.

Clearly, part of the key to providing energy at as close to wholesale as possible is keeping your overheads as lean and efficient as possible - my opinion is that the easiest way to do that is by having a partner who has done this before and ideally is based in Scotland.

I presume there is also a desire to focus on renewable energy provision, with a focus on energy generated within Scotland - thus providing the economic benefit and support for local generation, while also reducing householder bills. If that is the case

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it may also be prudent to mention that I am actively enrolled in a Heriot Watt course for renewable energy development and happy to bring in contacts from those areas as

needed.

Basically I think this is a very good idea for the country and want to help, how can I make that happen?

Regards  
[Redacted]

CC to [redacted], who until recently was our local MP, I have exchanged messages of support with in past and who I can't wait to see return - I'm glad to see

you will be staying on with the SNP! Hopefully the email address still works, but if not please forward this message on to him.

Regards,  
[redacted]  
Customer Technology Co-Founder  
[redacted]

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**Energy and Climate Change Directorate**      □□□□  
Consumers and Low Carbon Division

E: [redacted]@gov.scot

[redacted]

Our ref:      2017/0037295  
November 2017

[redacted]

Thank you for your email sent 10 October 2017 regarding your interest in the Publically Owned Energy Company.

The Scottish Government is developing plans for an energy company that will support our efforts to tackle fuel poverty and help to achieve our ambitious climate change targets. In developing our plans we are reviewing responses to specific questions on the issue set out within the consultation on the Scottish Government's draft Energy Strategy. The aim is to have the company set up by the end of this term of the Parliament. Our final Energy Strategy is scheduled to be published by the end of the year and we will bring forward further thinking at that time.

You make some interesting points regarding your previous experience with the industry which officials will consider within the project development process. I have

no doubt there will be a number of stakeholder engagement opportunities and would be delighted to hear more about your own organisation and how you believe we can best deliver our ambitions

Regards

[redacted]  
Support Officer  
Low Carbon Support Unit



DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

**Corporate Services**

By email to:-  
[scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

**Committee Services**  
REDACTED  
Chief Solicitor

Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
Livingston  
West Lothian  
EH54 6FF

REDACTED

Contact: REDACTED  
Tel: 01506 281801

20 November 2017

Dear Minister

**AMENDMENT – PUBLICLY OWNED ENERGY COMPANY**

At a meeting of West Lothian Council held on 7 November 2017, the Council considered a motion entitled 'Publicly Owned Energy Company'. An amendment by Councillor Fitzpatrick was subsequently agreed.

I would be grateful if you could consider the terms of the amendment (copy attached). I would ask that your response be directed to Graham Hope, Chief Executive, West Lothian Council.

Yours sincerely  
REDACTED

for Graham Hope  
Chief Executive

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## **WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL LABOUR GROUP**

### **Notice of Amendment from Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick for the Council Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

#### **Item 10 – Publicly Owned Energy Company**

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Councillors are advised that The Scottish Government announced on 10 October that it would be taking forward proposals outlined in its manifesto for a publicly owned energy company. While there is no significant detail available at present, the Draft Energy Strategy published in January 2017 stated that:

“A Government Owned Energy Company (GOEC) should address specific market failure or add value through accelerating progress towards relevant policy aims and goals, and could take on a number of potential roles:

- deliver/support existing and new schemes and initiatives;
- deliver energy infrastructure including district heating;
- coordinate the procurement of energy efficiency and heat technology measures;
- act as an energy supplier, delivering on a not-for-profit basis; or
- administer a Scottish Renewable Energy Bond”

It cites a number of existing publicly owned energy suppliers including Aberdeen Heat & Power and Bristol Energy as examples of the type of schemes which could be included in future plans. It is intended that any GOEC would be in place by 2021 and would sell energy at as close to cost price as possible. The development of a GOEC could be seen as an alternative to local authorities developing their own Energy Services Companies (ESCO) or to existing schemes such as Our Power.

Council notes that West Lothian Council has almost totally upgraded its housing stock in terms of efficiency to Scottish Housing Quality Standard. Our Advice Shop service has helped maximise customer's income to a value of £7,687 and 278 homes were insulated through the Home Energy Efficiency Programme as well as offering energy advice to 699 customers which resulted in fuel savings of £64226.

Fuel poverty is a major issue throughout Scotland with the last Scottish House Condition Survey highlighting that 29% of households in West Lothian were fuel poor and 7% were in extreme fuel poverty and agrees that any measures taken at a Government level to help address this issue, and to supplement or enhance the work already being undertaken by the council, are to be welcomed.

It is the case that Scottish Labour have long asserted the need for a publicly owned not for profit energy company and look forward to Scottish Government coming forward with meaningful proposals.

This Council, given the absence of timescales for establishing a state owned energy company calls on the Scottish Government to provide additional funding to resolve fuel poverty and to bring forward its plans without further delay.

**Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick  
Group Leader  
West Lothian Council Labour Group**

**Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy**

Paul Wheelhouse MSP

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T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

[redacted]

Chief Executive

West Lothian Council

Howden South Road

LIVINGSTON

West Lothian

EH54 6FF

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Our ref: 2017/0043035

December 2017

Thank you for your email sent 22 November 2017 regarding the Publicly Owned Energy Company

The Scottish Government is developing plans for a publicly-owned energy company that will support efforts to tackle fuel poverty by selling energy to customers at “as close to cost price as possible”, and in doing provide people with more choice, particularly those on low income. It is also provides an opportunity to consider how this could link to delivery of broader Government energy ambitions, including the promotion of renewable generation in Scotland and the maximisation of benefit to local communities.

We have committed to deliver our proposals by the end of this Parliament, taking into account the need to undertake due diligence and consult with stakeholders further, in advance of any legislative or regulatory measures being taken forward.

I am aware of the strong interest the announcement as generated, and there is a commitment on our part to provide more information on the role of a Publicly Owned Energy Company and to stakeholders diary 2018.

I recognise your strong support for West Lothian Council is ambition to reduce fuel poverty in households. You make some interesting points in this regard, which my officials and I will consider within the project development process.

**Paul Wheelhouse MSP**