

## ANNEX

### Renewable electricity target

#### Background

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022, First Minister said at FMQs:

“Under this Government, our net energy consumption is already provided by renewable energy sources. Scotland leads the world when it comes to renewable energy, and ScotWind is a shining example of that.”

This statement seems to refer to the [renewable electricity target](#), which states that the Scottish Government has a target to generate the equivalent of 100% of Scotland’s own electricity demand from renewable sources by 2020. This is a measure of how much of Scotland’s annual electricity demand *could* be met by the total amount of renewable electricity generated in a year and is given as the equivalent percentage of gross electricity consumption (where gross electricity consumption is total energy generation minus net exports).

#### Corrections

The First Minister’s statement refers to renewable *energy*, when it appears what should have been referred to is renewable *electricity*. For information, figures for 2020 indicate that the equivalent of 25.4% of total Scottish energy consumption came from renewable sources, not 100% which might be inferred from FMs statement (data here: [Scottish Energy Statistics Hub \(shinyapps.io\)](#)).

In addition, the statement infers that 100% of electricity consumed in Scotland in 2020 came from renewable generation. This is an inaccurate representation of the renewable electricity target. Scotland generated enough renewable electricity to meet the *equivalent* of 98.6% of the electricity used in 2020. However, renewable electricity generation forms a part of a wider, balanced electricity mix: Scotland produces – and consumes - electricity from a range of sources, including from fossil fuels. In 2020, 61.8% of the electricity generated in Scotland came from renewable sources. The remaining 38.2% came from nuclear, fossil fuel, pumped hydro and other forms of generation (data here: [Scottish Energy Statistics Hub \(shinyapps.io\)](#)).

#### Suggested correction

“Under this Government, the equivalent of 98.6% of our gross electricity consumption is already provided by renewable energy sources”

#### Connected work for awareness

Officials are dealing with two FoI/EIR requests relating to the above subject and further instances where this error have been identified.

More information on any of the above can be provided if needed.