

ANNEX

Renewable electricity target

Background

On 29th 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.