

From (REDACTED) <REDACTED> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Sent: 16 November 2022 18:02

To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
<CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Line to clear: Various outlets - 25% statistic Topical Question

Hi (REDACTED),

Mr Matheson is content.

Many thanks,
(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED)

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Mobile: (REDACTED) | Email: (REDACTED)

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From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 November 2022 17:30

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (Energy) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C

(Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>

Subject: Line to clear: Various outlets - 25% statistic Topical Question

Hi (REDACTED),

We have been approached, as below, by the Scotsman (and subsequently the Daily Express) about a Twitter thread published by These Islands group accusing Ms Slater of “misleading Parliament” yesterday when answering a question on when Ministers first became aware of the accuracy of the statistic that Scotland has 25% of Europe’s offshore wind potential.

At Topical Questions, Liam Kerr asked: **“When did ministers first become aware that they were using a figure that, to quote Scottish Government officials, had not “been properly sourced”?”**

The Minister responded: **“Ministers became aware of the issue on Tuesday 8 November ahead of the publication of the report by These Islands.”**

These Islands are claiming that email correspondence released under FOI around the use of a statistic in a speech Mr Wheelhouse was giving, show that Ministers were aware as early as 2020. Full Twitter thread: <https://twitter.com/staylorish/status/1592617334715256832>

The journalist has asked whether we stand by the claims that Ministers were first made aware of issues with this statistic on 8 November.

We have considered with policy leads and SpAds today and suggest the following response.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“As Ms Slater said in the Chamber, Ministers became aware of the report by These Islands on 8 November. In relation to the Freedom of Information requests associated with this report, we recognise that there was correspondence between officials about the use of the statistic in late 2020, and we are now undertaking a further examination of our records, alongside work to provide an updated estimate.

“However, Scotland remains at the forefront of the developing offshore wind industry in Europe and ScotWind, the world’s largest floating offshore leasing round, represents a massive step forward in delivering an energy revolution. The potential pipeline of offshore wind in Scotland – subject to planning and consenting decisions and finding a route to market – is over 40 Gigawatts. This is the equivalent to produce enough electricity to power every home in Scotland for 17 years, or every home in the UK for over a year and a half.”

If any follow-ups from journalists with regard to our plans to update Parliament, we will refer journalists to the [Official Record](#).

Relevant extract below:

At the time when they cited it, Scottish ministers understood that statistic to be accurate. Now that it has come to our attention that it is not, we are working to update the statistics on how our offshore wind potential compares with that of other countries. We will update the

Parliament once that is done and, at that point, we will consider how any legacy documents might need to be updated.

I would be grateful if the Cabinet Secretary could confirm he is content with the response.

Thanks,

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: (REDACTED)@gov.scot

m: (REDACTED)

From: REDACTED <REDACTED>

Sent: 16 November 2022 09:25

To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: Lorna Slater misleading parliament

Hi (REDACTED),

Good to chat.

As discussed, looking for a Scot Gov line on whether you guys are standing behind the suggestion by Lorna Slater that ministers were made aware they were using a "never properly sourced" claim around offshore wind potential on November 8.

In the Twitter thread here, and in the FOI, it appears clear that former energy minister, Paul Wheelhouse, was aware of that fact given the statistic was discussed extensively when considering whether to use it in one of his speeches. Is the government suggesting that no-one within Mr Wheelhouse's ministerial or private office flagged this to him at the time and that this discussion happened without his knowledge?

Minister Slater specifically was asked about when ministers were aware they were using a figure that was "never properly sourced". The answer appears to be October 2020, not November 8, this year.

Here's the thread: <https://twitter.com/staylorish/status/1592617334715256832>

Here's the FOI

referenced: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/foi-eir-release/2022/09/foi-202200313781/documents/foi-202200313781---information-released/foi-202200313781---information-released/govscot%3Adocument/FOI%2B202200313781%2B-%2BInformation%2Breleased.pdf>

Best,

(REDACTED)

--

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Mobile: (REDACTED)

Parliament Phone: (REDACTED)

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: Offshore Wind Potential - 25% statistic

Hi all,

Thanks to everyone who joined the 1pm call at short notice. (REDACTED). I have also copied colleagues from Marine Scotland that were not on the previous copylist:

Please update if anyone believes the points below are incomplete/inaccurate.

Andy

Agreed approach:

(REDACTED)

Actions:

(REDACTED)

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 November 2022 17:27

To: Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

Ok thanks.

From: Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 November 2022 17:21

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

Thanks Stuart,

(REDACTED)

I had a quick follow up call with (REDACTED) and we would suggest one minor further clarification, highlighted below.

Andy

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

(REDACTED)

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 November 2022 16:51

To: Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

(REDACTED),

I discussed this with (REDACTED).

We don't need to get into more detail for the purposes of these comms lines.

Thanks

From: Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 November 2022 16:42
To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

(REDACTED),

The latest text looks ok to me.

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED). In relation to advice around any follow-ups on this, presumably we would just point to the information already released under FOI.

Andy

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 November 2022 16:34
To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)

<REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

Hi all,

Thanks for feedback – final version of the line to be cleared by the Cabinet Secretary below.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

(REDACTED)

Given that it has been removed from the line, if any follow-ups from journalists with regard to our plans to update Parliament, we will refer journalists to the [Official Record](#).

Relevant extract below:

At the time when they cited it, Scottish ministers understood that statistic to be accurate. Now that it has come to our attention that it is not, we are working to update the statistics on how our offshore wind potential compares with that of other countries. We will update the Parliament once that is done and, at that point, we will consider how any legacy documents might need to be updated.

Grateful for any further views or comments in next 30 mins.

Thanks,

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: (REDACTED)

m: (REDACTED)

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 November 2022 16:01

To: Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

SPADs have discussed and think we need to (REDACTED).

From: Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 November 2022 15:52

To: Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

(REDACTED)

If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours.

Mike Palmer

Deputy Director for Marine Planning and Policy

marinescotland

Scottish Government | Area GB-South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Tel: (REDACTED)

Mob: (REDACTED)

email: REDACTED@gov.scot

w: <http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland>

From: Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 November 2022 14:48

To: Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox

<Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

Thanks (REDACTED),

Adding in MS colleagues.

As per Harry's request, (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

If we go with this, I would recommend (REDACTED)

Subject to any other views from the copylist – I think this otherwise looks ok to me.

Andy

From: Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 November 2022 14:33

To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

Thanks (REDACTED). (REDACTED).

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 November 2022 14:11

To: DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Berge K (Kersti) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot> (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Raines P (Philip) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hackett R (Rebecca) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: Media query - 25% statistic Topical Question

Hi all,

Thanks for the call earlier. Starting a new chain to deal specifically with the media query. Scotsman and Express have been on.

Please see suggested response below.

Grateful for views or any suggested changes by 3.30pm if possible please.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

(REDACTED)

Thanks,

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: (REDACTED)

m: (REDACTED)

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED>

Sent: 16 November 2022 09:25

To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: Lorna Slater misleading parliament

Hi (REDACTED),

Good to chat.

As discussed, looking for a Scot Gov line on whether you guys are standing behind the suggestion by Lorna Slater that ministers were made aware they were using a "never properly sourced" claim around offshore wind potential on November 8.

In the Twitter thread here, and in the FOI, it appears clear that former energy minister, Paul Wheelhouse, was aware of that fact given the statistic was discussed extensively when considering whether to use it in one of his speeches. Is the government suggesting that no-one within Mr Wheelhouse's ministerial or private office flagged this to him at the time and that this discussion happened without his knowledge?

Minister Slater specifically was asked about when ministers were aware they were using a figure that was "never properly sourced". The answer appears to be October 2020, not November 8, this year.

Here's the thread: <https://twitter.com/staylorish/status/1592617334715256832>

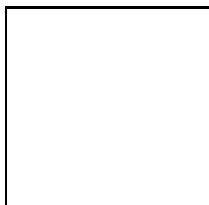
Here's the FOI

referenced: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/foi-eir-release/2022/09/foi-202200313781/documents/foi-202200313781---information-released/foi-202200313781---information-released/govscot%3Adocument/FOI%2B202200313781%2B-%2BInformation%2Breleased.pdf>

Best,
(REDACTED)

--

(REDACTED)
(REDACTED)
Mobile: (REDACTED)
Parliament Phone: (REDACTED)
(REDACTED)



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From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 November 2022 10:33
To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>;
Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>
Cc: Corbett GN (Gavin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>;
(REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)
<REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED <REDACTED@gov.scot>;
Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)
<REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>;
Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>;
Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne)
<REDACTED@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
<MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)
<REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent - Topical Question - Tuesday 15 November

Hi (REDACTED), both Harry and John have cleared.

(REDACTED)

<REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent - Topical Question - Tuesday 15 November

Adding other for awareness

Thanks

(REDACTED)

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 15 November 2022 10:17

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Corbett GN (Gavin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>

Subject: Urgent - Topical Question - Tuesday 15 November

Hi PO Cab Sec NZET and Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

Please find below the suggested answer to Liam Kerr's topical question, which Ms Slater has agreed to respond to, for Cab Sec's approval. A background note with supplementary questions and answers is also attached for approval.

S6T-00960: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED) | Directorate for Energy and Climate Change | The Scottish Government
|
(REDACTED) | REDACTED@gov.scot



From: McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 November 2022 13:19
To: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: quotes

I would use them

Callum McCaig
Special Adviser to the First Minister
(REDACTED)
(REDACTED)

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From: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 November 2022 13:14
To: Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: quotes

These quotes as from (REDACTED). Should we use them?

“Scotland has a major role to play in this with an estimated 25% of Europe’s offshore wind potential”

UK Government’s strategy to boost Scotland’s offshore wind sector

Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland and [The Rt Hon Michael Moore](#)

Published

1 August 2013

[UK Government’s strategy to boost Scotland’s offshore wind sector - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Business Secretary Vince Cable said:

“We have more offshore wind power than the rest of the world combined and, if we get it right and strike now, we will also see this new technology creating thousands of jobs here as well.”

1 August 2013

[Multi-million pound investment in offshore wind industry to unlock billions in UK economy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@parliament.scot>
Sent: 15 November 2022 13:27
To: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Topical sup – (REDACTED) wording

This bit

Topical Questions selected for answer on 15 November 2022

1. **Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that its claim that Scotland has 25% of Europe’s offshore wind potential lacks evidence and that it knew that there was no basis for it. ([S6T-00960](#))
(REDACTED): (REDACTED)

From: John.McFarlane@gov.scot <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 November 2022 13:24
To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: Topical sup – (REDACTED) wording

What’s additional?

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@parliament.scot>
Sent: 15 November 2022 13:23
To: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: Topical sup – (REDACTED) wording
Importance: High

Hi John,

(REDACTED) has sent in the below additional info for his sup today -

Topical Questions selected for answer on 15 November 2022

1. **Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that its claim that Scotland has 25% of Europe’s offshore wind potential lacks evidence and that it knew that there was no basis for it. ([S6T-00960](#))

(REDACTED): (REDACTED)

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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A’ toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A’ toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

www.parliament.scot : facebook.com/scottishparliament : twitter.com/scotparl

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
Sent: 15 November 2022 12:17
To: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: topical supp

Hi John

I know (REDACTED) is working on it – the last version I had is attached.

(REDACTED) – (REDACTED)

Scottish Government | St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG | Mob: (REDACTED) |
Email: MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot

(REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>

Subject: IMMEDIATE: Topical Question - Tuesday 15 November

Hi (REDACTED)

Please see the anticipated Supps for this afternoon, please:

(REDACTED): (REDACTED)

(REDACTED): (REDACTED)

(REDACTED) – (REDACTED)

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG | Mob: (REDACTED) | Email: REDACTED@gov.scot

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From: (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 15 November 2022 13:02

To: Huyton H (Harry) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights <MinisterZCBATTR@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Spads Admin < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: A letter from Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Hi all

Updated background note attached with further sups – will update tracker.

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED) | (REDACTED) |
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change | Scottish Government
Tel: (REDACTED)

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 15 November 2022 10:17

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Corbett GN (Gavin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>

Subject: Urgent - Topical Question - Tuesday 15 November

Hi PO Cab Sec NZET and Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

Please find below the suggested answer to Liam Kerr's topical question, which Ms Slater has agreed to respond to, for Cab Sec's approval. A background note with supplementary questions and answers is also attached for approval.

S6T-00960: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED | Directorate for Energy and Climate Change | The Scottish Government
|
(REDACTED) | REDACTED@gov.scot



From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and

Transport

Sent: 14 November 2022 18:45

To: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights <MinisterZCBATTR@gov.scot>; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>

Cc: Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 15 November

Thanks (REDACTED), very much appreciated. As per teams, will let Cab Sec know and copy you and Harry/Gavin into the commissioning email now.

Thanks,
(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED)

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

Mobile: (REDACTED) | Email: CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

Sent: 14 November 2022 18:42

To: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights <MinisterZCBATTR@gov.scot>; Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>

Cc: Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 15 November

Thanks (REDACTED) – Ms Slater is content to take this topical on.

(REDACTED)

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG | Mob: (REDACTED) | Email: MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot

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From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 14 November 2022 18:00

To: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>;
Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights <MinisterZCBATTR@gov.scot>;
Minister for Just Transition, Employment & Fair Work <MinisterJTEFW@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 15 November

Hi all,

Mr Matheson has been given the below topical question and would be grateful if Mr Lochhead, Ms Slater or Mr Harvie would please consider answering it on his behalf given he is due to speak at a conference in Aberdeen tomorrow.

1. Liam Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that its claim that Scotland has 25% of Europe's offshore wind potential lacks evidence and that it knew that there was no basis for it. ([S6T-00960](#))

Thanks,
(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED)

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Mobile: (REDACTED) | **Email:** CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** ParlyClerk Scotland

Sent: 14 November 2022 17:43

To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gv.scot>; (REDACTED) <

REDACTED@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; COPFS Policy Division <COPFSPolicyDivision@gov.scot>; Corbett GN (Gavin) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)< REDACTED@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; DG Scottish Exchequer Mailbox <DGScottishExchequer@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director, Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice <DirectorTCPSJ@gov.scot>; DL All Scottish Government Ministers <DLMPOPALLSGMIN@gov.scot>; Dobson L (Leanne) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; ET SGO <ETSGO@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@revenue.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Gillespie G (Gary) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hynd JS (James) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; MacInnes J (John) (Special Adviser) <@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot >; (REDACTED) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@transport.gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Rogers D (David) (Constitution and Cabinet Director) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Solicitor to the Scottish Government <solicitor@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team <TSS@transport.gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED @gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 15 November

Please find attached the Topical Questions for tomorrow

<< File: Topical 15 Nov.docx >>
(REDACTED)
Parly Clerks Office

From: Huyton H (Harry) < REDACTED@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 November 2022 20:40

(REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; REDACTED < REDACTED@gov.scot>; REDACTED < REDACTED@gov.scot>; REDACTED < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; REDACTED < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Blewett J (Jo) < REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Urgent - Topical Question - Tuesday 15 November

John/Harry,

REMOVING PO

Suggest draft answer to consider prior to sending to Mr Matheson and Ms Slater for clearance by 09.00 tomorrow

S6T-00960: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that its claim that Scotland has 25% of Europe's offshore wind potential lacks evidence and that it knew that there was no basis for it.

Suggested Draft Answer: **(REDACTED)**

Draft supplementaries also attached, which can be amended once we are made aware of any supporting party questions.

Please note I will now be offline until lunchtime tomorrow but my colleague (REDACTED) will be online from around 08.30 tomorrow to make any edits before sending to PO.

(REDACTED)

REDACTED | REDACTED | **Directorate for Energy and Climate Change** | REDACTED

From: (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 14 November 2022 18:52

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) < REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) < REDACTED@gov.scot>; Corbett GN (Gavin) < REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Urgent - Topical Question - Tuesday 15 November

Noted (REDACTED).

I'll endeavour to get something to you tonight.

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED) | **Directorate for Energy and Climate Change** | (REDACTED)

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 14 November 2022 18:51

To: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Corbett GN (Gavin) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Urgent - Topical Question - Tuesday 15 November

Hi all,

To confirm that Ms Slater has agreed to answer this topical tomorrow on Cab Sec's behalf given he is at conference in Aberdeen. Adding the Minister's PO and Harry and Gavin (SpAds) for sight.

Grateful for confirmation that this has been picked up please and apologies for the quick turnaround but first sight ahead of Cabinet is much appreciated.

Thanks,
(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED)

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Mobile: (REDACTED) | **Email:** CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 14 November 2022 18:27

To: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT Topical PQ - S6T-00960 - Due 09.30 tomorrow

(REDACTED),

Confirm that my team will pick this up. Although the 0900 deadline my PO may be a challenge.

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Sent with BlackBerry Work

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 14 November 2022 17:52

To: Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>

Subject: Urgent - Topical Question - Tuesday 15 November

Importance: High

Hi all,

We've been notified of the following topical question for tomorrow.

S6T-00960: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that its claim that Scotland has 25% of Europe's offshore wind potential lacks evidence and that it knew that there was no basis for it.

PO are seeking Cab Sec's steer given he is due to be speaking at conference in Aberdeen but grateful for a first draft (around 97 words), background note, Q&A and any relevant FMQ briefs by **9am tomorrow** morning.

Please let us know if you have any questions and please, as always, add relevant officials as required.

Thanks,

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED)

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Mobile: (REDACTED) | Email: CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox

Sent: 14 November 2022 17:38

To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>

Subject: URGENT Topical PQ - S6T-00960 - Due 09.30 tomorrow

Hi all,

We received the Topical PQs through for this week and we think this one may be for your area.

The PQ is due with MPO by 09:30 tomorrow morning.

The reason for such an early deadline is so the answer can be discussed at Cabinet tomorrow afternoon.

The Topical PQ is;

S6T-00960 To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that its claim that Scotland has 25% of Europe's offshore wind potential lacks evidence and that it knew that there was no basis for it.

We know sometimes areas like to discuss who will answer, content of answer etc before coming back to us, but with such a tight deadline can you confirm it has been picked up?

Many thanks

(REDACTED)

First Minister Questions & Parliamentary Questions

(REDACTED) | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

📞 (REDACTED) 📠 (REDACTED) 📧 REDACTED@gov.scot

🌱 Before you print think about the ENVIRONMENT



You can find more detailed information on answering PQs here [Answering Parliamentary Questions \(PQs\)](#)

You can also download the PQs desk aid to print out and keep. It summarises the process and important timings to remember for delivering PQs each week.

If you or anyone in your team require any training/awareness in PQs please get in touch

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 November 2022 17:55

To: Milne D (Drew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - 25% of Europe's Offshore Wind Statistic - Various

Hi (REDACTED),

Just belatedly coming back on this – while I understand the point re the fishing sector and their concerns, (REDACTED)

Just because we cite XX % of area clearly doesn't mean that we would look to utilise all of that area for offshore wind.

(REDACTED)

Thanks

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 November 2022 18:41

To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special

Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - 25% of Europe's Offshore Wind Statistic - Various

Hi (REDACTED),

That was just to clarify that we still have significant resources and thinking purely about area, we have around ~60% of the UK seas. However, other stakeholders, particularly our fishing sector are very defensive and vocal about the spatial squeeze on their grounds and would not welcome a view that all of the space could be offshore wind.

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) | (REDACTED) | Marine Scotland

Scottish Government | 1 A South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: (REDACTED) or (REDACTED)

Email: (REDACTED)

www.marine.gov.scot

www.gov.scot/marinescotland

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 November 2022 18:26

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <

REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - 25% of Europe's Offshore Wind Statistic - Various

Thanks, Stuart. The comments from Officials were taken from FOI releases. Apols – attaching what “These Islands” put together and sent out. They do suggest an alternative figure to the 25% in this.

Grateful for anything colleagues can add on this (REDACTED) – you mentioned earlier a further option for taking this up directly, albeit it came with risks?

(REDACTED)

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 November 2022 18:17

To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J

(John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; REDACTED <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - 25% of Europe's Offshore Wind Statistic - Various

Ok – but going back to the original query and lines issued, as this is the first I've seen of this, if we acknowledge the 25% figure is out of date, do we have an updated one, even in ballpark terms? (REDACTED)

Also, where do the (SG?) “official’s” quotes cited by “These Islands” come from?

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 November 2022 18:09

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Hogg A (Andrew) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - 25% of Europe's Offshore Wind Statistic - Various

Removing PO, adding Media SpAds given the time.

(REDACTED) has followed-up up to ask – if we acknowledge the statistic requires updating, why were we still using it as recently as October? (Understand it was referenced in the Economy Prospectus).

We've agreed the following response with Policy – which I'd suggest we issue from Comms for info only.

Grateful for a SpAd view.

REDACTED

(REDACTED)

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 08 November 2022 16:56

To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

The attached also contains Official-level comments, gathered under FOI, which suggest (to *These Islands* and the journalist) that the 25% figure is outdated and the evidence base not strong enough to support the figure.

We've agreed the following response with Policy and SpAds. Grateful for Mr Matheson's clearance, please.

A Scottish Government Spokesperson said:

“Our abundant natural resources, expertise and proven track record in decarbonisation make Scotland perfectly placed to become a global powerhouse of renewable energy.

“ScotWind, the world’s largest floating offshore leasing round, represents a massive step forward in delivering an energy revolution with ambitions to deliver 27.6 Gigawatts of power - nearly triple our renewable energy generation currently in operation.

“The statistic relating to Scotland having 25% of Europe's offshore wind potential was set out in a 2010 publication and was calculated accurately at the time. We recognise that changes in technology and use of marine space mean that this statistic now requires updating and will be undertaking work to update the figure. However, we are confident that Scotland remains at the forefront of the developing offshore wind industry in Europe.”

Thanks
(REDACTED)

From: (REDACTED) <REDACTED>
Sent: 08 November 2022 10:59
To: (REDACTED) <REDACTED@gov.scot>
Subject: Wind energy potential 'debunked'

Hi (REDACTED),

As discussed, These Islands, a pro-union think-tank have given us sight of a new paper they are publishing tomorrow which debunks the claim Scotland has 25% of Europe's offshore wind energy potential.

The report is attached, but alongside the debunking of the claims themselves, I've got some additional questions around the internal communications on this question.

Specifically, these comments from officials:

"Whilst the 25% figure has been used in the past, we tend not to use this anymore. It has proved very difficult to source." (9th October 2020)

“the 25% estimate has never, to my knowledge, been properly sourced” (20th October 2020)

“Other than our recent exchanges on this request, of course, I’ve nothing to offer – my search of the G drive having unfortunately yielded up nothing more on the [redacted] study in 2001 and why it should have been associated with the “25%” estimate.” (12th January 2021)

“Yes we did recycle those figures quite robotically without really checking them.” (18th January 2021)”

Can you explain why, given the fact the figure has "never been properly sourced", it was repeated by senior Scottish Government politicians and published in papers such as the National Strategy for

Economic Transformation?

Has the Government been misleading the public on Scotland's offshore wind potential for decades?

Why are civil servants repeating figures, in official documents, which don't stand up to scrutiny?

My deadline is 4pm today, please.

Best,
(REDACTED)

--

(REDACTED)
(REDACTED)
Mobile: (REDACTED)
Parliament Phone: (REDACTED)
(REDACTED)

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