

202200298818 Release Documents

Document 1 – Website Text Email with Attachment

Monday 06/11/2017 15:24

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

To: Ministerbie@gov.scot

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work <CabSecEJFW@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution <CabSecFC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities <CabSecCSSE@gov.scot>; Minister for Local Government and Housing <MinisterLGH@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Energy and Climate Change - Business Management <ECCBMU@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorTCPSJ@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@forestry.gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>

Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

Copy: as above

Public Owned Energy Company – Website Text for Clearance

Purpose: To ask you to approve the text on the Public Owned Energy Company for the Energy pages of the SG public facing website and the text for the PCS portal to confirm the appointment of Ernst and Young as advisers.

Timing: Urgent. There is significant interest in this topic and as such it is important to be as transparent as possible.

Background: In the Cabinet Secretary's update to Cabinet on 23 October he indicated that Ministers would clear the proposed public information in advance of publication.

- **SG Energy Pages**
[Attachment 1]
- **PCS Website Notification Text**

The Scottish Government's recent draft Energy Strategy Consultation included a question on the potential role of "a Government Owned Energy Company to help the growth of local and community projects". In addition to the consultation, further views were gathered on the potential for a Government Owned Energy Company. On 10 October 2017 the First Minister of Scotland made an announcement committing to

Many thanks [redacted]. Sending as follows:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The UK Government has failed to provide a competitive market that delivers fair and transparent energy bills for consumers. While the power to regulate the market rests with UK Government, we are determined to provide targeted support to those in need.

“Our final Energy Strategy will include conclusions on a Government owned energy company and we are working to promote Scottish consumer engagement in the market. Last year we launched an impartial supplier-switching support service and we have committed to introducing financial health checks to address the poverty premium, help people switch to the lowest tariffs, including those on prepayment meters, and provide advice on reducing energy use.”

Background

- The Scottish Government will continue to press the UK Government to place an energy price cap on standard variable tariffs to ensure a fair deal for customers.
- As part of the draft Energy Strategy consultation the Scottish Government asked people to consider the potential role and purpose for a Government Owned Energy Company (GOEC) that would support the development of local energy. An energy supply company is only one of many roles that was suggested as part of the consultation. Responses are currently being analysed and conclusions will be included in the final Energy Strategy later this year.
- In November 2016 the Scottish Government rolled out an impartial supplier-switching support service through a partnership between Home Energy Scotland and the social enterprise Citrus Energy. This initiative helps to simplify the switching process for those who do not have internet access or find it difficult to navigate price comparison websites.
- Addressing energy efficiency has a real effect on people’s lives, lowering household energy bills, improving health outcomes, reducing energy demand and helping Scotland to meet our ambitious climate change targets. That is why the Scottish Government has already recognised the importance of energy efficiency and has made it a national infrastructure priority. Scotland’s Energy Efficiency Programme will help individuals, families and businesses to avoid unnecessary energy costs.

[redacted]

Newsdesk

Scottish Government

0131 244 5183

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

Sent: 15 September 2017 12:01

To: [redacted](Communications)

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Economy; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; News Desk; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications CSSE; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] Special Adviser; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities; kevin.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot; Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

Subject: RE: Lines for clearance - Sunday Mail - Government owned energy company - due 12.00 please

Importance: High

[redacted]

As discussed, Mr Wheelhouse has responded and added a comment in on prepayment meters in the last paragraph.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The UK Government has failed to provide a competitive market that delivers fair and transparent energy bills for consumers. While the power to regulate the market rests with UK Government, we are determined to provide targeted support to those in need.

“Our final Energy Strategy will include conclusions on a Government owned energy company and we are working to promote Scottish consumer engagement in the market. Last year we launched an impartial supplier-switching support service and we have committed to introducing financial health checks to address the poverty premium, help people switch to the lowest tariffs, including those on prepayment meters, and provide advice on reducing energy use.”

[Private Secretary / Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy](#)

☎ 0300 24 41271 | 📱 Mobile: 0044 (0)7920274493 | ✉ Email: ministerbie@gov.scot | [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)

2N.08 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Thank you.

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

Sent: 15 September 2017 11:49

To: [redacted](Communications); Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities; Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy; kevin.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Economy; [redacted];

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; News Desk; [redacted];
k[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications CSSE;
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] Special Adviser; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]

Subject: RE: Lines for clearance - Sunday Mail - Government owned energy company - due 12.00
please

[redacted]

I have been unable to contact Mr Wheelhouse – content to go on Ms Constance
and/or SpAd clearance.

Kind Regards
[redacted]

Private Secretary / Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

☎ 0300 24 41271 | Mobile: 0044 (0)7920274493 | Email: ministerbie@gov.scot | [\[redacted\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)
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request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private
Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Thank you.

From: [redacted](Communications)

Sent: 15 September 2017 11:41

To: Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities; Minister for Business,
Innovation and Energy; kevin.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Economy; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; News Desk; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications CSSE;
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] Special Adviser; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]

Subject: RE: Lines for clearance - Sunday Mail - Government owned energy company - due 12.00
please

Hi, sending again to add in Mr Stewart's MSP email address.

From: [redacted](Communications)

Sent: 15 September 2017 10:29

To: Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities; Minister for Business,
Innovation and Energy

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications Economy; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; News Desk; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications CSSE;
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] Special Adviser; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]

Subject: Lines for clearance - Sunday Mail - Government owned energy company - due 12.00 please

Hello POs

Sunday Mail doing a story on household energy bills and asking about proposals for Scottish Government owned energy firm (full enquiry details below).

The following lines have been developed with policy and cleared by spads. Are Ms Constance and Mr Wheelhouse content to clear?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The UK Government has failed to provide a competitive market that delivers fair and transparent energy bills for consumers. While the power to regulate the market rests with UK Government, we are determined to provide targeted support to those in need.

“Our final Energy Strategy will include conclusions on a Government owned energy company and we are working to promote Scottish consumer engagement in the market. Last year we launched an impartial supplier-switching support service and we have committed to introducing financial health checks to address the poverty premium, help people switch to the lowest tariffs and provide advice on reducing energy use.”

Background

- The Scottish Government will continue to press the UK Government to place an energy price cap on standard variable tariffs to ensure a fair deal for customers.
- As part of the draft Energy Strategy consultation the Scottish Government asked people to consider the potential role and purpose for a Government Owned Energy Company (GOEC) that would support the development of local energy. An energy supply company is only one of many roles that was suggested as part of the consultation. Responses are currently being analysed and conclusions will be included in the final Energy Strategy later this year.
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Thanks

[redacted]
Newsdesk
Scottish Government
0131 244 5183

From: **[redacted]** [mailto:[redacted]@sundaymail.co.uk]
Sent: 13 September 2017 17:05
To: **[redacted]** Special Adviser
Subject: Scottish Government-owned energy company

Hi **[Redacted]**

Hope you're well. Could you help with something please? Keen to do a follow-up to the warning earlier this week about families facing up to £400 on their bills as fixed term plans come to an end.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/money/300000-families-face-400-extra-11148943>

There's a Scottish Government consultation at the moment on proposals on a Scottish Government-owned energy firm that could challenge the so-called Big Six.

<https://www.ft.com/content/8e29bee1-2eb7-3fb4-9d8d-cb9a1132cf39>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/energystrategy>

According to the Scottish Government press release, the consultation has now closed and responses are being analysed. Would there be any possibility of an insight into the response and what the Scottish Government might do next please?

Many thanks

[redacted]

Publicly Owned Energy Company

Background

The recent draft Energy Strategy Consultation which ran from January – May 2017 included a question on the potential role of “a Government Owned Energy Company to help the growth of local and community projects”. In addition to the consultation a workshop was held, and well attended, on the 27 March 2017 to explore with stakeholders first-hand their views on the potential for a Government Owned Energy Company.

The formal Energy Strategy consultation analysis will be published shortly.

Proposition

On 10 October 2017, the First Minister, made an announcement committing to set up a publicly-owned not-for-profit energy company by the end of the current Parliament. The intention, as set out by the First Minister of the Publicly Owned Energy Company is to sell energy, bought wholesale or generated in Scotland to customers at “as close to cost price as possible”, and in so doing provide people with more choice, particularly those on low income. The commitment is to have the Company operational by the end of this current Parliament (March 2021).

Current Action

Consideration of how to best take forward the ambitions set out by the First Minister is now underway. Ernst and Young have been appointed, through the Consultancy One procurement framework, to provide an independent commercial review of the information prepared. It is important that the information is reviewed through a commercial lens prior to this being presented to Scottish Ministers to ensure that all early decisions taken support the development of a viable and market compliant solution.

Next Steps

Further thinking on the delivery of the ambition will be available when the Scottish Government publishes its Energy Strategy at the end of year.

As part of current work thought is being given to identify the best ways to seek early views from interested stakeholders on emerging proposals.

Future Consultancy Support

If the Scottish Government needs to procure future goods or services in support of the Publicly Owned Energy Company, we will do so in compliance with all applicable rules. This might include new competitions advertised through the Public Contracts Scotland Portal ([here](#)) or pre-existing contracts and frameworks.