

## **BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S6W-16100**

(To be completed as necessary with any additional information)

### MSP Background

1. [Redacted]
2. [Redacted]
3. The question was – “To ask the Scottish Government whether it will update its guidance on noise limits and amplitude modulation, as recommended in the WSP publication, A Review of Noise Guidance for Onshore Wind Turbines: Project Report, published in October 2022 on behalf of the UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.”

*Answer: We welcome the research conducted by WSP on behalf of the UK Government. The Scottish Government contributed financially to the research project and will continue to work with the UK Government on next steps following the publication of the report. Until such time as new guidance is produced, ETSU-R-97 should continue to be followed by applicants and used to assess and rate noise from wind energy developments.*

### Background Briefing

4. Noise from wind farms is assessed against onshore commercial wind turbine noise assessment guidance (a document known as ETSU-R-97). The ETSU-R-97 guidance was published by the Department of Trade and Industry in 1996. In 2013, the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) released a Good Practice Guide (GPG) on how to apply ETSU-R-97 (with Supplementary Guidance Notes published in 2014), which addressed many technical aspects that had been subject to scrutiny and debate.
5. The above is guidance rather than legislation and has been adopted across the whole of the UK.
6. ETSU-R-97 guidelines relating to wind farm noise had not been reviewed in over 25 years and given the innovation within the sector (e.g. increased tip heights, efficiency improvements and blade optimisations) there was a gap in knowledge on the impact of noise from wind farms.
7. The Scottish Government provided [Redacted] to a short-term review project managed by the UK Government. The project aimed to answer the question: in view of government policies on noise and commitments to Net Zero, should the existing ETSU-R-97 noise assessment guidance for wind turbines be updated.



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

17.[Redacted]

Contact Name: [Redacted]

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