


## Document 1: Meeting with SSE on 26 January 2023

	Document reference	
	Revision	FINAL
	Function	Note of Meeting and actions

Meeting	<b>SSEN Transmission project portfolio meeting with ECU, January 2023</b>
Date	26/01/23
Time	10.30-11.30am
Attachments	

Attendees	
<b>SSEN Transmission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Redacted], Head of Consents &amp; Environment ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Consents &amp; Environment Strategy Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Lead Consents &amp; Environment Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Lead Consents &amp; Environment Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Town Planning Specialist ([Redacted])</li> </ul>	<b>ECU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Redacted], Grid Connections Manger, ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Case Manager ([Redacted])</li> </ul>

## Agenda

Ref	Item	Owner
1	General Updates	All
2	SSEN Transmission Project portfolio update	All
3	Next Meeting Date	[Redacted]
4	AOB	All

## Minutes/ Key Actions

Ref	Item	Action Owner
1	<b>General updates</b>	
	Apologies from [Redacted] (SSEN), [Redacted] (ECU), [Redacted] (ECU)	Note

	[Redacted] to take note and circulate Draft for review/input.	[Redacted]
	[Redacted]: Consents Conference last week was really useful, and ECU had useful inperson meeting with Networks team yesterday.	Note
	[Redacted]: ECU short staffed at the moment – people are off using leave and there are positions that need to be filled. Would be useful to limit contact with individual case officers and keep queries for monthly catch ups as individual queries (especially on non-EIA cases) distract case officers from work on cases.	Note

Ref	Item	Action Owner
	[Redacted]: Keen to stay up to date with where projects are at. Think about how we go through this tracker to get the most out of it – something to consider for next meeting to highlight projects either with ECU or due to be submitted soon. There's not a lot ECU can do with projects where they haven't received a preapp form. [Redacted] suggested colour coding to highlight what is sitting with ECU at the moment/due to be submitted soon. [Redacted] to address for next meeting.	[Redacted]
	[Redacted]: For awareness – issues with fee calculations on recent submissions using old fees regs from prior to 13 December 2022. [Redacted] has shared new fee regs, calculator, etc, but will share again with the wider team [Redacted]: will circulate list of projects where fees are wrong – [Redacted] to address and respond	[Redacted] /[Redacted]
<b>2</b>	<b>SSEN Transmission Project portfolio update</b>	
	<b>LT16 Eastern HVDC Peterhead Converter Station - New sealing end tower and associated downloads</b> [Redacted] [Redacted] explained that this is SSE Group owned land but not SSENs. No CPO required.	Note
	<b>LT137 East Coast 400kV OHL upgrade</b> PLHRA sent to ECU – feedback anticipated mid-Feb (from Ironside Farrar) Challenge is that we are due to commence on 13 Feb – timing is a risk. [Redacted] Keen to know if this response can be expedited. [Redacted] will contact Ironside Farrar to see if this can be brought forward [Redacted] to share LPA contact details with [Redacted] as this would help	[Redacted] [Redacted]
	<b>LT37/359 Beaully - Blackhillock - Peterhead 400kV</b> For awareness – project in early stages	Note
	<b>LT455 Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL</b> For awareness – project in early stages Pre-app form received by ECU this week. ECU will be in touch with [Redacted].	Note
	<b>LT383 Alyth – Tealing 400kV Reinsulation (TKUP)</b> For awareness – project in early	Note



	stages	
	<b>LT384 Tealing – Glenrothes 400kV Reinsulation (TKUP)</b> For awareness – project in early stages	Note
	<b>LT29 Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV connection project</b> With DPEA – pre-enquiry meeting arranged for 10 February 2023	Note
	<b>LT193 Dunoon to Loch Long</b> Gate check meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup> Targeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> February for submission of s37 application. [Redacted] to update ECU early next week on timing of application.	[Redacted]
	<b>LT194 Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV Overhead Line</b> [Redacted]: [Redacted] seeking to progress consultation response to ECU at PPSL in March. RSPB and NatureScot meeting to be set up by [Redacted] to target remaining issues on ornithology.	Note
	<b>LT266 Sheirdrim WF 132kV OHL Connection</b> Waiting on A&BC to respond to screening [Redacted]: Programme discussion taking place and it may be that re-prioritisation is required.	Note
	<b>LT312/ 313 Earrighail WF connection</b> Timelines TBC. Dates in programme likely to be pushed out. Update at next meeting.	Note

Ref	Item	Action Owner
	<b>LT337 Tangy IV WF Connection</b> Timelines TBC. Dates in programme likely to be pushed out. Update at next meeting.	Note
	<b>LT403 Cnoc Buidhe WF connection</b> Timelines TBC. Dates in programme likely to be pushed out. Update at next meeting.	Note
	<b>Argyll substations s37 applications</b> Various submissions of updated information for these non-EIA projects. [Redacted] and [Redacted] to pick up separately (*post meeting note: meeting has taken place) [Redacted]: [Redacted] intends to turn focus to these projects following once other larger projects address eg Creag Dhubh Substation	Note
	<b>LT91 Skye Reinforcement</b> [Redacted]: Early Feb for submission of additional information including updated Planning Statement to address NPF4	[Redacted]
	<b>LT95/ 111/ 112 Coire Glas Grid Connection</b> Scoping request to be submitted w/c 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2023.	Note
	<b>LT419 Melgarve Cluster</b> Timescales likely to slip by a few months from those identified on spreadsheet. Update to be provided at next meeting.	Note
	<b>LT299 Ben Tharsuinn WF connection</b> No further update at present	Note



	<b>LT000132/428 Beaully – Loch Buidhe - Spittal 400kV OHL</b> [Redacted] confirmed this is a priority project. Routing Consultation beginning Feb 2023, followed by alignment consultation	Note
	<b>LT107/ 108 Strathy Wood WF Grid Connection, LT318/319 Armadale WF Connection and LT229 Strathy South</b> New request for scoping opinion required to be submitted around March/April 2023 with s37 consent application to follow in Autumn 2023.	Note
	<b>LT354 Slickly WF Connection</b> Route optioneering ongoing.	Note
	<b>LT290/292 Kergord to Gremista 132kv OHL works</b> [Redacted] to prioritise decision notice. Aiming to issue asap.	Note
	<b>LT245 Harris to Stornoway 132kV OHL replacement</b> [Redacted] aware of request for extension from planning authority – 13 Feb until ‘early’ May 2023. Looking at programme internally before responding to this request. [Redacted] to respond to ECU next week.	[Redacted]
<b>3</b>	<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023 – diary invite sent	Note
<b>4</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	[Redacted] shared SSEN contact details with Planning colleagues esp re: PD rights [Redacted] confirmed that date is in diary for discussion in February 2023. [Redacted] queried potential to have discussion on PD (Class 40) and OHL Exemption Regs at same time. [Redacted] queried whether Planning ‘own’ the OHL Exemption Regs? [Redacted] confirmed that Exemption Regs would sit with ECU as it’s related to Electricity Act 1989. [Redacted] suggested picking this up through short term working group.	Note
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>
	[Redacted] highlighted for awareness – SSEN will be sending letter to the Cabinet Secretary following the Consents Conference. Letter also to be sent to Tom Arthur MSP following up on NPF4 discussions. [Redacted] suggested that [Redacted] be cc’d into communications.	

## Document 2: Meeting with SSE on 2 February 2023

### Commercial in Confidence

### Note of virtual meeting with SSE Renewables – 2 February 2023

Attendees: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy & Transport

Stephen Wheeler – Managing Director, SSE Renewables  
[Redacted] – Head of External Relations (Scotland), SSE Renewables  
[Redacted] – Head of P&C Services, SSE Renewables

Andy Hogg, SG  
[Redacted], SG  
John McFarlane, Spads

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- SW stated that SSE are reviewing [Redacted]
  - Cab Sec asked why the change in strategy and would the successful [Redacted], as previously indicated, as this would require an [Redacted].
  - SW agreed that the [Redacted].
  - SSE also outlined that the CfD Allocation Round 5 administrative strike price [Redacted] future allocation rounds needs to reviewed by BEIS as a matter of urgency unless the UK will miss out on the development of the renewables and associated supply chain (particularly given context of US IRA subsidies and emerging EU support packages).
  - Cab Sec acknowledge that Scottish Government had similar concerns especially as both onshore wind and offshore wind were now in pot 1, which could be detrimental to both technologies but particularly the development of onshore wind.
  - SW agreed to speak with Cab Sec again following further engagement with each of the [Redacted].
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### **Document 3 - Meeting with SSE on 9 March 2023**

#### **Note of Meeting with SSER & SSEN – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:  
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy & Transport

[Redacted], SSE  
[Redacted], SSE

[Redacted], Scottish Government  
[Redacted], Scottish Government  
[Redacted], Scottish Government  
[Redacted], Scottish Government  
Fran Pacitti, Scottish Government

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Cab Sec welcomed SSE and thanked them for adding their signature to the letter he issued to [Redacted] since then.

[Redacted] shared that he had met with representatives from [Redacted] in February and that he had also been to [Redacted] to visit them.

[Redacted]

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## Document 4 - Meeting with SSE on 13 March 2023

### MINUTES OF ENERGY NETWORKS SLG MEETING 13 March 2023

#### Attendees

Name	Organisation
Martin Cook (MC)	National Gas
[Redacted]	Ofgem
[Redacted]	Strathclyde University
Ragne Low (RL)	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	National Grid ESO
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	SSEN
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
Scott Mathieson (SM)	SPEN
[Redacted]	Scottish Government

#### Apologies

Name	Organisation
Trisha McAuley	Independent Consumer Expert
Angus McIntosh	SGN
[Redacted]	National Grid ESO
[Redacted]	SSEN

#### ACTIONS

Action by	Action Required	Deadline
[Redacted]	Share Deloitte Supply Chain Report.	13 June 2023
All	Training and Skills Development approach to be developed.	13 June 2023
[Redacted]	Engage Skills Development Scotland and SG skills colleagues.	13 June 2023
MC	Share documents on blending of Hydrogen.	13 June 2023
[Redacted]	Offered a briefing session on the CCC report.	13 June 2023

Apologies from [Redacted], Angus McIntosh, Trish McAuley and [Redacted] were noted.

#### Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (ESJTP)

All – Consensus is: helpful strategy, provides clear direction. Requires more detail on offshore wind and jobs, and more certainty required.

Important to take a holistic approach across GB rather than focus just on Scotland.

Comment that Scottish Government and UK Government policy doesn't currently align.

Noted that Scotland's targets don't align with GB.

Discussed global supply chain lack of resources, with supply outstripping demand. Europe and America have support packages leading to some of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) moving to Europe rather than UK.

Further progress is needed on planning and consenting, and in supply chain. Opportunity for indigenous manufacturing and skills. Value in having local manufacturers and skills and training in the areas we require.

Workforce renewal and replacement is challenging due to current competitive market for skills required with 'wage wars' leading to vacancies.

Require more detail on the number of jobs that will be required, how many of each profession is needed and when they will be required.

We will work together to develop a skills and training strategy to address the current and future challenges. Scottish Government officials will explore opportunities with Skills Development Scotland and progress, including Ofgem's offer to engage.

The Scottish Government has coordination role as currently disparate and could be more coordinated. Local planning issues can be disruptive.

Hydrogen economy: agreement to explore GB's future hydrogen requirements.

## **Major Electricity Networks Projects Group (MEPG)**

[Redacted] described MEPG project tracker and quarterly report.

MEPG Tracker a valuable tool for SG and allows preparation of resource planning.

## **CCC Report**

[Redacted] provided an overview of the CCC report on Delivering a Reliable Decarbonised Power System, published on 9 March 2023.

Doesn't completely decarbonise – 2% will be from unabated gas. In very rough terms it is 2 electricity systems: one for 'when it's windy' and one for 'when it's not'. The electricity network needs to facilitate both and need for optimisation.

There is a high level policy recommendation for a central body looking at delivery.

All – Consensus that this report provides clarity and will add momentum as energy system is broad and work is required on business models.

## **Transmission and Gas price controls**

[Redacted] - Ambition is single whole system plan that sets out all works required. Then the price control delivers this in most efficient way.

## AOB

Please pass agenda points for next SLG to SG.

## Agenda

Welcome and introductions	15:30 – 15:35
Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (ESJTP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ In what way does the ESJTP change what you are doing and how you are doing it?</li><li>○ In terms of getting the skills to support delivery - how do we grow the supply of people across the different roles?</li><li>○ What do you believe is fair to expect of industry and what are your asks of Scottish Government?</li></ul>	15:35 – 16:00
CCC report on delivering a reliable decarbonised power system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ What are the implications for our gas networks and how does this align with future of Gas Network work from UK government?</li><li>○ What should the priorities be for the proposed ‘Minister-led infrastructure delivery group’?</li></ul>	16:00 – 16:25
Major Electricity Networks Projects Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Overview MEPG project tracker and quarterly report.</li></ul>	16:25 – 16:40
Transmission and Gas price controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Uncertainty mechanisms how are they working under T2 and thoughts/lessons for ED2.</li><li>○ How have the lessons from Storm Arwen fed in to ED2?</li><li>○ What are the defining issues for RIIO 3?</li></ul>	16:40 – 16:55
A.O.B	16:55 – 17:00



Document 5 - Meeting with SSE on 23 March 2023

	Document reference	
	Revision	FINAL
	Function	Note of Meeting and actions

Meeting	<b>SSEN Transmission project portfolio meeting with ECU, March 2023</b>
Date	23/03/23
Time	10.30-11.30am
Attachments	

Attendees	
<b>SSEN Transmission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Redacted], Head of Consents &amp; Environment ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Consents &amp; Environment Strategy Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Lead Consents &amp; Environment Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Town Planning Specialist ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Lead Land Manager ([Redacted])</li> </ul>	<b>ECU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Redacted], Grid Connections Manger, ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Case Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Case Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Case Manager ([Redacted])</li> </ul>

Agenda

Ref	Item	Owner
1	General Updates	All
2	SSEN Transmission Project portfolio update	All
3	Next Meeting Date	[Redacted]
4	AOB	All

Minutes/ Key Actions

Ref	Item	Action Owner
1	<b>General updates</b>	

	<p>[Redacted] – this team (on the call), rather than [Redacted], is now picking up all applications above 132 kV and approach to them is changing whereby they will all need pre-application forms submitted (whether they are EIA or not).</p> <p>[Redacted] and [Redacted] to consider meeting at more regular intervals to replace meeting with [Redacted] and to cover off those projects normally discussed in the non-EIA project meeting.</p> <p>[Redacted] – ECU has recently been engaging with [Redacted] at the Woodland Trust. They are looking to be more involved as a consultee and we have included them in our standard consultee list. [Redacted] to put Woodland Trust in contact with SSEN T ([Redacted] / [Redacted]) for future engagement.</p>	<p>[Redacted] / [Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
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Ref	Item	Action Owner
	<p>[Redacted] – ECU team interested in doing some site visits to SSEN T sites, especially as the team is growing and it would be beneficial to the processing of applications. This is something that the wind farm ECU team have been doing for a while and has been positive.</p> <p>[Redacted] – Happy to organise this at a team level and incorporate an OHL and substations site visit. Or on a case by case basis on officer level.</p> <p>[Redacted] to liaise with [Redacted] about attendees and timing for a team event. Other site visits can be arranged separately, perhaps along with planning officer site visits if convenient.</p> <p>[Redacted] – ECU is dealing with a large volume of work at the moment and working on it as fast as possible. If there is anything urgent, SSE is open to speak to [Redacted] directly.</p>	<p>[Redacted] / [Redacted]</p>
	<p>[Redacted] to take note and circulate Draft for review/input.</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
2	<p><b>SSEN Transmission Project portfolio update</b></p>	
	<p><i>Eastern</i></p>	
	<p><b>LT16 Eastern HVDC Peterhead Converter Station – New sealing end tower and associated downloads.</b></p> <p>[Redacted] looking to share draft conditions soon.</p> <p>[Redacted] - waiting for update from landowner in the next couple of weeks but securing land rights is imminent. Legal process after that would take about a month.</p>	<p>Note.</p>
	<p><b>LT121/ 122 Elchies (Rothies III) WF Grid Connection</b></p> <p>[Redacted] working with TH get consultation issued on Monday.</p>	<p>Note.</p>
	<p><b>LT137 East Coast 400kV OHL upgrade</b> Resolving final conditions with LPA.</p>	<p>Note.</p>
	<p><b>LT225 EC 132kV OHL</b></p> <p>[Redacted] – [Redacted]</p>	<p>Note.</p>



	<b>LT264 Clash Gour WF Connection</b> [Redacted] – Draft conditions issued just before this meeting. [Redacted] – Land rights to be resolved around Easter.	Note.
	<i>Argyll</i>	
	<b>LT29 Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV connection project</b> [Redacted] - With DPEA at the moment. ABC took this back to PPSL yesterday to discuss objection in context of NPF4. Outcome was that objection is maintained.	Note.
	<b>LT29 Inverary to Taynuilt Tie in</b> [Redacted] – S37 submitted in Feb. Reallocated to [Redacted]. [Redacted] – confirmation needed from [Redacted] that press advert to be published on 30 <sup>th</sup> . Email sent to [Redacted] earlier this morning.	Note.
	<b>LT193 Dunoon to Loch Long</b> [Redacted] – there has been discussion around LPA response and request for an extension until 2 June 2023. We are still looking at this and trying to understand if this needs to go to committee or decision will be delegated. [Redacted] – working on basis that decision is needed by January 2024 so we are very keen to avoid any delays.	Note.
	<b>LT194 Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV Overhead Line</b> [Redacted] – working with RSPB, NatureScot and SEPA. Extension agreed until end of April as may need to go to PPSL, but [Redacted] is still determining if this can be determined using delegated authority.	Note.
	<b>LT266 Sheirdrim WF 132kV OHL Connection</b> [Redacted] – EIA screening request. NatureScot advice hasn't been very instructive.	Note.

Ref	Item	Action Owner
	[Redacted] – ECU has had this since Oct. Anything above 132kV will go to senior case officers. Shierdrim has been reallocated to [Redacted]	
	<b>LT314/ 315 Blarghour WF 132kV OHL Connection</b> <b>LT312/ 313 Earrighail WF connection</b> <b>LT337 Tangy IV WF Connection</b> <b>LT403 Cnoc Buidhe WF connection</b>  [Redacted] – all projects still at early stages, not submitted to ECU yet. Discussions ongoing about routing and probing. [Redacted] – please submit pre-app forms so we can begin this process and start resourcing accordingly.	Note.

	<p><b>LT155 Craig Murrail Substation</b>  <b>LT288 An Suidhe Substation</b>  <b>LT288 Crarae Substation</b></p> <p>Email from [Redacted] (22/3/2023) to ECU confirming ABC reports for all three of the above projects being completed under delegated authority to officers. These reports have been reviewed by [Redacted] this week, are with [Redacted] again for some minor amendments and will be forwarded to ECU before the end of the week (Friday 24 March).</p> <p>[Redacted] - Land negotiations ongoing – to be resolved approx. end of April.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT289 Crossaig North Substation</b></p> <p>[Redacted] – application hasn't made it to planning officer at ABC yet.  [Redacted] - Necessary wayleaves discussions ongoing.</p>	Note.
<i>Central</i>		
	<p><b>LT91 Skye Reinforcement Project</b></p> <p>Submitted additional information last month. Application went to THC planning committee yesterday, where no objection was raised. Planning officer seeking delegated authority to deal with conditions.  [Redacted] – necessary wayleaves submitted in January.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT95/ 111/ 112 Coire Glas Grid Connection</b></p> <p>Scoping Request has been submitted to ECU. Application to be submitted next week.  [Redacted] – timing doesn't marry up very well. Risk associated with not having Scoping Opinion in advance of submission, although noted that consultee scoping responses have been reviewed.  [Redacted] – would encourage a Gate Check 2 meeting prior to submission, using 'housekeeping' email as a point of reference.  [Redacted] to recommend CEM set up Gate Check 2 meeting for early next week.</p>	[Redacted]
	<p><b>LT419 Melgarve Cluster</b></p> <p>[Redacted] – Alignment consultation last month. Awaiting feedback from Stats. Plan to submit Scoping Request next month.  [Redacted] – please submit pre-app form.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT295 Bhlairaidh Extension Wind Farm Grid Connection</b></p> <p>S37 submitted in November 2022. THC extension requested until 10 May.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT000132/428 Spittal-Loch Buidhe-Beauly 400kV</b></p> <p>[Redacted] – there has been a lot of media activity and a lot of feedback to work through. There will be further consultation as route develops.  [Redacted] – please submit pre-app form.</p>	Note.
Ref	Item	Action Owner

	[Redacted] – will let CEMs know about submitting pre-apps for all 2030 projects in the near term.	
	<i>Caithness</i>	
	<b>LT107/ 108 Strathy Wood WF Grid Connection</b> <b>LT318/9 Armadale WF connection</b> <b>LT229 Strathy South</b>	Note.
	Working up consenting strategy and programme for the above projects as Connagill cluster – preference to submit one application. More detail to follow.	
	<b>LT354 Slickly WF Connection</b> Looking to submit Screening in Spring of this year. S37 submission planned for February 2024.	Note.
	<b>LT361 / 362 / 363 / 364 Achany WF</b> <b>LT370 Chleansaid Windfarm Connection</b> <b>PT885 Kintradwell windfarm connection</b>	Note.
	Screening requests for these projects to follow soon. [Redacted] – please submit pre-app requests.	
	<i>Shetland Islands</i>	
	<b>LT290/292 Kergord to Gremista 132kv</b> <b>OHL works</b> PLHRA and land owner issues closed out. With [Redacted] for final review. This is a SSEN T Priority for determination.	Note.
	<i>Western Isles</i>	
	<b>LT245 Harris to Stornoway 132kv OHL replacement</b> Extension request made. SSEN T has decided we could not accept request due to strict timing constraints due to programme constraints and requirement to deliver in price control round and this has been communicated. [Redacted] –consent required by November 2023. [Redacted] - Several necessary wayleaves with DPEA currently.	Note.
<b>3</b>	<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	
	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2023. Discussion to be had between [Redacted] and [Redacted] about frequency of meetings going forward.	[Redacted]/[Redacted]
<b>4</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	[Redacted] – we are keen to understand land rights issues/ key dates in greater detail in future. [Redacted] to add a column to spreadsheet to provide notes on land rights. [Redacted] – 2030 projects are generating a lot of public interest, esp. Beaully-Spittal and Beaully-Peterhead. [Redacted] – it really helps to have pre-app forms so we have a formal record and information on projects especially when questions received from Scottish Ministers and media.	[Redacted]

## Document 6 - Meeting with SSE on 11 May 2023



## Officials meeting with SSE Renewables – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Attendees:

[Redacted] – SSE Renewables

[Redacted] – SSE Renewables

[Redacted] – Scottish Government

[Redacted] – Scottish Government

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[Redacted] provided an update on the procurement timeline for the preferred supplier of the [Redacted]. [Redacted]

[Redacted] thanked [Redacted] for the update and asked that they keep the team updated as the process evolved.

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### Document 7 - Meeting with SSE on 30 May 2023

#### Approved by Ministers

**Minute of Meeting** – Alistair Phillips-Davies, CEO of SSE

**Tuesday 30 May 2023, 16:00 – 16:45**

**Microsoft Teams**

#### Attendees

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Energy

Gillian Martin, Minister for Energy

Alistair Phillips-Davies, SSE

Stephen Wheeler, SSE

[Redacted], Energy Strategy and Markets, Onshore Electricity Division

#### Discussion

1. SSE provided an overview of their business and investment in Scotland in support of a net zero energy system and congratulated Ministers on their appointment. Minister thanked SSE and set out that they were keen to work together collaboratively on reaching a net zero energy system in Scotland.
2. SSE welcomed SG recent letter to the UK government to call for a suitable market mechanism for pumped storage hydro.
3. SSE discussed the opportunity for Ministers to come and visit their sites over the summer including Coire Glas.
4. Mr Gray and Ms Martin discussed community benefits from the transition and the views of communities who feel that they are not seeing the benefit of increasing levels of renewable infrastructure. Mr Gray mentioned that the current electricity market does not allow for low prices of renewables to be translated directly to consumers.
5. SSE confirmed their commitment to community benefits including supporting community benefits for network infrastructure. SSE discussed technical requirements for undergrounding network infrastructure including the proposed approach for Coire Glas to manage heat levels from the necessary large transmission cables via construction of a

tunnel with cooling. Ms Martin enquired about offshore transmission infrastructure cabling and SSE said they would follow up after this meeting with more information on how they approached this.

6. SSE offered to follow up in a separate session on the breadth of community benefits work they are undertaking. Ministers agreed that they would welcome this.
7. SSE highlighted the breadth of work that they are undertaking via community benefits funding. Mr Gray referenced the Historic Environment Scotland work at the Engine Shed to retrofit harder to treat houses and the opportunity to link up.

## **Actions**

1. Officials to organise a joint discussion between SSE and Ministers on community benefit. SSE lead this session to provide an update to Ministers on breadth of their community benefit work including support for retrofitting households with energy efficiency and decarbonised heat solutions. SSE could also share key learning from approaches taken internationally in this session [Redacted].
2. Officials to link up SSE community benefits team with the Historic Environment Scotland team to share lessons and best practice on retrofitting hard to treat houses.
3. SSE to send through more information on offshore network cabling considerations to Ministers.

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## **Document 8 - Meeting with SSE on 5 July 2023**

### **Officials meeting with SSEN Transmission – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Attendees:

[Redacted] – SSEN

[Redacted] – SSEN

[Redacted] – Scottish Government

[Redacted] – Scottish Government

[Redacted] – Scottish Government

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[Redacted] gave a high level overview of the transmission infrastructure improvements needing to be undertaken in the coming years. Working with National Grid on 10.7GW for ScotWind and 50GW across the rest of the UK by 2030 and beyond. This equates to 9 projects in their area and 4 offshore transmission lines.

He continued by saying that to procure cable for these projects they have gone to the widest possible market but have to follow strict guidelines on the ultimate procurement of the cable

[Redacted] and [Redacted] thanked [Redacted] for the update and asked that they keep the team updated as the process evolved, acknowledging the strict guidelines SSEN need to operate within.

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## **Document 9 - Meeting with SSE on 20 July 2023**

# Minute of Shetland Visit – Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

Thursday 20 July 2023

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**SSE Viking Wind Farm and HVDC Sub Station: 12:30 – 15:15**

**SSE Renewables  
Viking Energy Wind Farm  
Main Compound  
South Nesting Access, A970  
Shetland  
ZE2 9LP**

## **Attendees:**

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy: Neil Gray  
[Redacted], SSE Onshore Renewables Development and Construction Director  
[Redacted], SSE, Head of Construction Onshore  
[Redacted], SSE, Viking Project Director  
[Redacted], SSE, Civil Package Manager  
[Redacted], SSE Head of External Relations  
[Redacted], SSE Head of Onshore Stakeholder Engagement  
[Redacted], Head of Onshore Renewable Electricity Policy, Scottish Government  
[Redacted], Assistant Private Secretary WEFWE, Scottish Government

## **Description:**

The Cabinet Secretary (Cab Sec) arrived at the Viking wind farm and was greeted by SSE representatives. [Redacted] provided an overview of Viking Wind Farm, with key aspects being; upon completion, Viking Wind Farm will be the most productive onshore wind farm in the UK. It's a 443MW, 103 turbine wind farm, with over half of the turbines now having been erected. It is due for final commissioning Summer 2024.

[Redacted] spoke about the outreach programme they have been doing, having had a number of visitors to the Viking community already, including school children.

[Redacted] went on to present on the layout and construction of Viking Wind Farm, highlighting the overall layout of turbines and pictures of the development of the construction site.

The Cab Sec was then given a sit induction and PPE and then went on a tour of the windfarm visiting the Mid Kames Ridge.

Following the onsite tour, SSE Renewables representatives left the Cab Sec and SG members with SSE Network colleagues at the Shetland HDVC link. SSE Network colleagues gave a very brief background to the HDVC link and then gave the group went on a site tour, visiting the substation, transformer room and the wire link to UK mainland.

END OF TOUR

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**Document 10 - Meeting with SSE on 20 July 2023**





Document reference	
Revision	FINAL
Function	Note of Meeting and actions

Meeting	<b>SSEN Transmission project portfolio meeting with ECU, July 2023</b>
Date	20/07/23
Time	10.30-11.30am

Attendees	
<p><b>SSEN Transmission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Redacted], Head of Consents &amp; Environment ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Consents &amp; Environment Strategy Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Lead Consents &amp; Env Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Lead Land Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Town Planning Specialist ([Redacted])</li> </ul>	<p><b>ECU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Redacted], Grid Connections Manger ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Case Manager ([Redacted])</li> <li>• [Redacted], Case Manager ([Redacted])</li> </ul>
<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Redacted] (SSEN Transmission)</li> <li>• [Redacted] (SSEN Transmission)</li> <li>• [Redacted] (ECU) ([Redacted])</li> </ul>	

### Agenda

Ref	Item	Owner
1	General Updates	All
2	SSEN Transmission Project portfolio update	All
3	Next Meeting Date	[Redacted]
4	AOB	All

### Minutes/ Key Actions

Ref	Item	Action Owner
1	<b>General Updates</b>	
	[Redacted] – Keen to keep working with SSEN Transmission to become more efficient, esp. re: things like agreeing adverts, using	Note.



	<p>Gate Check Process. Sometimes adverts are taking 8 weeks. [Redacted] – I'm aware of a couple of recent examples. This is partly due to some new team members not being familiar with processes.</p> <p>[Redacted] – Would it be worth having a 'housekeeping session'? [Redacted] agreed.</p> <p>[Redacted] – re: Engaging on conditions it would be better to go directly through us rather than via stakeholders when trying to agree condition wordings. It would be helpful to flag these earlier so that ECU can initiate engagement with stakeholders if/where we identify 'red flags' in conditions.</p>	
	Note there is a Non-EIA catch up on Wednesday next week with [Redacted], [Redacted] and [Redacted].	Note.
<b>2</b>	<b>SSEN Transmission Project portfolio update</b>	
	<i>Eastern</i>	
	<p><b>LT121/ 122 Elchies (Rothies III) WF Grid Connection</b>  Moray Council planning officer wants to take this to planning committee midAugust but waiting on some information from SSEN. [Redacted] to follow up with [Redacted] about information to be provided.  PLHRA still being developed.  [Redacted] – would be helpful to feedback timings of when we will be submitting information to ECU case officer</p>	[Redacted]
	<p><b>LT137 East Coast 400kV OHL upgrade</b>  [Redacted] – We are currently onsite, although there are a few conditions to close out still with Aberdeenshire Council.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT264 Clash Gour WF Connection</b>  [Redacted] – No further updates – case on hold with ECU.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT37/359 Beaully - Blackhillock - Peterhead 400kV</b>  No further update following routing consultation. Consultation now closed.  Working on feedback reports.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT455 Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL</b>  <b>LT383 Alyth – Tealing 400kV Reinsulating</b>  <b>LT384 Tealing – Glenrothes 400kV Reinsulation</b></p> <p>[Redacted] – Feedback period extended to 28 July.  [Redacted] – [Redacted] is flagged to pick this one up as case officer for ECU.  [Redacted] – will there be three S37s? Have you considered staged conditions or other means of making submissions more efficient? Is there an option to consult altogether?  [Redacted] – new OHL (LT455) needs to be its own S37 – we need to split new OHL from reinsurance jobs (LT383/384). We are looking at consenting strategy for reinsurance jobs and whether we do these together or split into two, and how we manage with SPEN given it enters their licence area. Our consultation to date has incorporated all projects.  [Redacted] – We will keep ECU up to speed with SPEN discussions.</p>	Note.
	<i>Argyll</i>	

	<b>LT29 Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV connection project</b> [Redacted] – Inquiry sessions took place in June. Awaiting outcome.	Note
	<b>LT193 Dunoon to Loch Long</b> LLTNP responded raising no objection. Not sure if ABC has responded. RB – not likely. [Redacted] – issue of wording of ‘approve subject to conditions being applied’ to ensure their wording of conditions were included in the consent. [Redacted] has asked [Redacted] via email but not replied. [Redacted] – forward to [Redacted] in [Redacted]’s absence for [Redacted] to consider response.	[Redacted]
	<b>LT194 Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV Overhead Line</b> [Redacted] – We are awaiting response from ABC – due soon. [Redacted] – It would be useful in general to send case officer an email to advise when land rights issues are resolved. [Redacted] – DPEA has made decisions but we don’t know what these are yet. Feedback awaited.	Note.
	<b>LT266 Sheirdrim WF 132kV OHL Connection</b> [Redacted] – Scoping Opinion Request submitted beginning of June.	Note.

Ref	Item	Action Owner
	[Redacted] – There have been a couple of requests for extensions and outstanding responses.	
	<b>LT312/ 313 Earrighail WF connection</b> <b>LT337 Tangy IV WF Connection</b>  [Redacted] – Connection date changes – we need to look at programme and look to revise pre-app forms where necessary. [Redacted] – It would generally be useful to have pre-app meetings in advance of submitting Screening requests.	Note.
	<i>Central</i>	
	<b>LT91 Skye Reinforcement Project</b> [Redacted] – We have additional information to submit. [Redacted] targeting next week and has been in discussion with [Redacted] about re-advert. PLHRA is included in additional information. Necessary wayleave applications in with DPEA. Voluntary agreements still to be concluded. [Redacted] – suggest SSEN Transmission liaise with [Redacted] to confirm timescales for land rights approvals so ECU can prioritise if needed.	Note.

	<p><b>LT95/ 111/ 112 Coire Glas Grid Connection</b>  [Redacted] – We are still to go back to [Redacted] re: objections (NatureScot, RSPB)  We have revised tower location for Tower 6 (for HES) due to setting impacts. [Redacted] – There had previously been a note that ECU would receive additional information at end of July?  [Redacted] – This has slipped due to holiday season. More like end of August, with confirmation of land rights towards end of year.  [Redacted] – would be helpful to know when SSEN Transmission intend to come back to case officer on various issues.  [Redacted] – note we have initiated PAN for substation / switching station so we are going ahead with PAC for these TCPA applications.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT419 Melgarve Cluster</b>  [Redacted] submitted pre-app form, and Screening Request in advance of meeting. [Redacted] – this is now out for consultation.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT295 Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm Grid Connection</b>  [Redacted] – this is something to pick up in more detail next week. Revised information not yet submitted.  [Redacted] to catch up with [Redacted] beforehand.</p> <p>(Post meeting note: further information to be submitted end July 2023)</p>	[Redacted].
	<p><b>LT000132/428 Spittal-Loch Buidhe-Beauly 400kV</b>  [Redacted] – There is a lot of internal work ongoing, including alignment development.  No route or substation locations confirmation yet.  Feedback on consultation to come out in the next months.  We are trialling new ‘more visual’ format for consultation material. Happy to send this to ECU if interested.  Alignment options to be produced towards end of 2023.  Early contractor design work progressing well.  We are roughly on track with current programme.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT249 West of Beauly Asset Replacement Projects - Culligran Substation</b> [Redacted] – Screening Request submitted earlier in July.  [Redacted] – consultation responses due back on 28 July.</p>	
	<i>Caithness</i>	
	<p><b>LT107/ 108 Strathy Wood WF Grid Connection LT318/9 Armadale WF connection</b></p>	Note.
Ref	Item	Action Owner

	<p><b>LT229 Strathy South</b></p> <p>[Redacted] – need to catch up with [Redacted] prior to submitting pre-app form. [Redacted] – I think we have already seen a pre-app form for this. Need to present information clearly at pre-app stage when you submit multiple projects in same form.</p> <p>(Post meeting note: The Connagill Cluster is the collective name for connection offers for six wind farm generators all of which will feed into the existing Connagill Substation. A pre-app form has been submitted for this. Pre app meeting planned for 24/08/23)</p>	
	<p><b>PT000899/913 – Lairg 2 WF connection</b></p> <p>[Redacted] – I’m aware of issues with adverts and timing.  [Redacted] – planning on early August for ads. We have a tendency to cast the net wide on non-EIA projects – in future they perhaps warrants more proportionate consultation (ie. less).  [Redacted] to discuss further with [Redacted] on approach to reduce any unnecessary consultation.  [Redacted] – [Redacted] keep me in loop on any correspondence to CEM on this please.</p> <p>(Post meeting note: [Redacted] to review application with project team)</p>	[Redacted]
	<p><b>LT361 / 362 / 363 / 364 Achany WF</b></p> <p>Screening req submitted.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>LT370 Chleansaid Windfarm Connection</b></p> <p>Screening Request to be submitted this month.</p>	Note.
	<p><b>PT885 Kintradwell windfarm connection</b></p> <p>Screening Request submitted.</p>	Note.
	<i>Shetland Islands</i>	
	<p><b>LT216 Kergord to Yell 132kV OHL works</b></p> <p>Pre-app form to be submitted.</p>	Note.
	<i>Western Isles</i>	
	<p><b>LT245 Harris to Stornoway 132kV OHL replacement</b></p> <p>[Redacted] – Draft conditions shared – [Redacted] has sent out internally and we will come back to you. There are 6 necessary wayleaves – unsure on timescales for these.  Decision by November critical.  [Redacted] – well progressed from ECU side.</p>	Note.
3	<b>Next Meeting – 14 September 2023</b>	Note.
4	<b>AOB</b>	
	<p>[Redacted] – is there anything you need from SPEN or us re: Short-Term Working group?  [Redacted] – not at the moment. This is on radar to look into this and progress.</p>	Note.

## Document 11 - Meeting with SSE on 11 September 2023

### Meeting with SSE plc



**Monday 11 September 2023, 09:00 – 11.15**  
**Inveralmond House, Perth**

### **Attendees**

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

[Redacted], Finance Director SSE

Rachel McEwen, Director of Sustainability SSE

[Redacted], Managing Director SSEN Transmission

[Redacted], Managing Director SSE Renewables

[Redacted], SSE Head of Public Affairs Scotland

Frances Pacitti, Offshore Wind Directorate

[Redacted], DECC

[Redacted], Ministerial Private Office

### **Matters Discussed**

1. SSE offered a presentation providing an overview of its investment programme, comprising £40bn over the next decade, including £21bn in Scotland and portfolio of projects across onshore, offshore, pumped storage and transmission.
2. The Cabinet Secretary was explicit that, while content to discuss issues of general policy, he would not discuss any live applications with Scottish Ministers for determination.
3. SSE called for a more balanced approach to consenting of energy infrastructure, with the need for proportionate mitigation of environmental impacts and a nature positive approach looking at net benefits of projects rather than focussing on individual species or receptors. Viking windfarm peatland restoration was highlighted as a positive example, but not a standard which should be applied in all cases. [Redacted]
4. The UK Government's announcement on CfD allocation round 5 was discussed. While onshore, wave and tidal allocations are welcomed, challenges remain. Projects which were awarded contracts under AR4 may not now come forward given price increases in market. There are implications for the supply chain, with key suppliers reporting sustained losses. Wave and tidal are challenging to bring to scale. [Redacted]. SSE will engage directly with UKG to set out industry requirements and offered to share the detail with SG, who can support in those discussions where appropriate.
5. Community benefits were discussed, with parties acknowledging examples of good practice by SSE and the opportunity to revisit principles in a more mature onshore wind market/ different characteristics of the offshore market. Parties discussed the merits of community wealth funds to deliver enduring benefits; feasibility challenges associated with delivery of benefits for individuals; and the balance to be struck benefits being secured locally for those communities who experience greatest impacts/ centralised to leverage other funding sources. Parties agreed to continue a constructive discussion.
6. Grid. An overview was provided of grid upgrades required in the SSEN region to facilitate the first phase of generation required to meet SG and UK targets. There was discussion on the approach to community engagement and the need for participation in decisions around corridor and route identification. The benefits of an improved narrative on the need for transmission upgrades were acknowledged, as part of a just transition and highlighting job creation and other economic benefits of the SSEN programme.
7. Industrial strategy. SSE called for workforce planning to be undertaken as part of the Green Industrial Strategy, and challenged the prevailing narrative that Scotland has failed to maximise the economic potential of onshore generation, citing examples of

new Scottish suppliers. The economic benefits of a circular economy were also discussed, under reference to Rachel McEwen's role as a Just Transition Commissioner.

8. The Cabinet Secretary was offered the opportunity to meet with customer service representatives and hear about their roles. The Cabinet Secretary was also introduced to staff working in the grid distribution and transmission teams, to see how critical national infrastructure is monitored throughout the day.

## **Actions**

1. SSE to share detail on specific priorities for CfD AR6, to support SG official engagement with UKG.
2. SSE and officials to continue to engage on community benefits for onshore and offshore generation projects.