

1. How many wind farms are currently licensed to operate in Scotland?

The Scottish Government does not hold this information, therefore we are applying an exception under regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs. Having permission to build and operate a wind farm is not the same as having a licence (or an exemption from requiring one) to generate electricity. Consideration of licence requirements prior to generating electricity is the responsibility of the operator. The national energy regulator, Ofgem, considers gas and electricity licence applications and decides whether or not to grant a licence.

Information on consented, permitted and operational wind farms can be found here - [Renewable Energy Planning Database: quarterly extract - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/renewable-energy-planning-database-quarterly-extract-2023-06.pdf)

More information on licensing can be found at: <http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/LICENSING/WORK/Pages/Work.aspx> and [List of all electricity licensees including suppliers | Ofgem](https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/consult/condetail.cfm?consultationid=1234567).

2. How many wind turbines are there currently in operation in Scotland?

Please see the table below, which presents data on the number of wind turbines in Scotland by planning stage, of which 4,273 are operational as at the end of June 2023 :

Status	Sites	Turbine number
Operational	334	4273
Application Submitted	115	1555
Awaiting Construction	96	1058
Under Construction	29	640

These figures have been sourced from the Renewable Energy Planning Database maintained by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ): [Renewable Energy Planning Database: quarterly extract - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/renewable-energy-planning-database-quarterly-extract-2023-06.pdf).

Please note that there was a minimum installed capacity threshold for inclusion into the REPD of 1MW until 2021, at which point it was lowered to 150kW. This means that projects below 1MW that were going through the planning system before 2021 may not be represented in the REPD database. Despite the limitations in the data provided by DESNZ, we consider this to be the most reliable source for this data.

3. What percentage of wind power electricity is currently surplus to Scotland's requirements and is sold to other parts of the UK?

The Scottish Government does not hold data on electricity exports by technology or local authority, therefore we are applying an exception under regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs. Electricity networks operate across Great Britain as a whole and as such,

electricity generation across all technologies feed into the wider network. Statistics are available for total electricity imports and exports ([Welcome to the National Grid ESO Data Portal | ESO](#)), but it is not possible to definitively say what proportion of electricity exports come from a single technology or local authority.

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested. You may wish to contact the National Grid who may be able to help you. They have a data portal ([ESO | ESO \(nationalgrideso.com\)](#)) and associated contact email address (OpenData.ESO@nationalgrideso.com).

4. How many wind farm applications have been refused by the Scottish Government in the last 10 years?

In total, the Scottish Government has refused 132 wind farms over the last 10 years. This total comprises 31 refused section 36 consent (for applications made to Scottish Ministers), 96 dismissed/refused planning permission appeals and 5 refused where Scottish Ministers made decisions on planning applications which were called in.