

**1. In the most recent analysis done by yourselves, how many fossil fuel boilers are there in Scotland and what is the current estimation for when these will be replaced?**

The [SHCS 2019](#) is a sample survey and is the most recent representative data set showing how many fossil fuel boilers there are in Scotland. Due to complications associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, there was no 2020 survey, and 2021 data is not considered to be completely representative. The SHCS 2019 shows that around 2.2m dwellings (89% of all dwellings) had fossil fuels as their primary heating fuel.

To meet 2045 Net Zero targets, all homes must be using clean heating, such as heat pumps or connecting to a heat network, by 2045.

**2. How much is the Scottish Government estimating it would now cost homeowners to replace their fossil fuel heating systems?**

The total cost of replacing a fossil fuel heating system will depend on the house and the type of heating system being installed. We have estimated that the average total cost to convert a home to a heat pump is around £14,000.

**3. How much money has been handed out in the Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan scheme, with a breakdown of this in terms of loans and grants, and the number of grants and loans rejected as well?**

The Home Energy Scotland (HES) Grant and Loan scheme launched in December 2022 as an update to the HES Loan and Cashback offer. Since the scheme launched to end of October 2023, a total of £63,890,388 has been issued to householders through the scheme. This figure includes payment of some funding offers made prior to the update to the scheme and is comprised of £44,637,844 in loan funding and £19,252,543 in grant funding. 104 applications to the scheme have been rejected since launch, of those 48 were loan only applications, 9 were grant only applications and 47 were a combination of grant and loan applications.

**4. All research and briefings prepared for ministers about heat pumps between January 2023 and the date of this FOI?**

Five research projects within the scope of this request are already available online at the following links:

- [Zero emissions heating in new buildings across Scottish Islands \(climatexchange.org.uk\)](https://www.climatexchange.org.uk)
- [Supporting documents - New Build Heat Standard 2024: business and regulatory impact assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/qualitative-research-domestic-property-owners-attitudes-net-zero-heating-energy-efficiency-standards-phase-1-2/)
- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/qualitative-research-domestic-property-owners-attitudes-net-zero-heating-energy-efficiency-standards-phase-1-2/>
- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/qualitative-research-domestic-property-owners-attitudes-net-zero-heating-energy-efficiency-standards-phase-3-4/>

- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/qualitative-research-domestic-property-owners-attitudes-net-zero-heating-energy-efficiency-standards-summary-report/>

Under regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs, we do not have to give you information which is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format. If, however, you do not have internet access to obtain this information from the website listed, then please contact me again and I will send you a paper copy.

Please find attached a PDF document with all briefings and research papers deemed to be within scope of this request.

### **5. How much money has been spent on decarbonising Scottish Government buildings so far and a breakdown of these costs, including how much was spent and what the money was spent on?**

The information on project spend to decarbonise Scottish Government buildings is published in our Public Bodies Climate Change reports. Therefore, Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs has been applied as this information is 'otherwise accessible' online at: [Reports \(sustainable-scotland.org\)](https://www.sustainable-scotland.org/reports)

The spend for 2022-23 is currently being audited and will be published by SSN early in the new year.

### **6. In a Scottish Government tweet on August 25, it states: "Renewables capacity in Scotland has grown by 8% over the last year, more than one-and-a-half times the rest of the UK." Could you substantiate this claim? Including where it is sourced from, what capacity is being talked about and what the actual figures are?**

These numbers were calculated from data collected by DESNZ and published in the Energy Trends table 6.1 ([Energy Trends: UK renewables - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-trends-uk-renewables)). The Tweet is referring to renewable electricity capacity in Scotland compared to the UK. The most up-to-date data available at the time the Tweet was produced showed that as of March 2023, Scotland had 14.5 Gigawatts (GW) of installed renewable electricity generation capacity operational. This was a 8.1% increase from March 2022. As of March 2023, the rest of UK had 40GW of installed renewable generation capacity operational, a 4.7% increase from March 2022.

The renewable capacity numbers over these time periods have since been revised as part of the most recent release of statistics. As a consequence, the numbers are slightly different now. The latest statistics can be found here [Energy Trends: UK renewables - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-trends-uk-renewables).

### **7. The Scottish Government has previously called the statement Scotland has 25% of Europe's offshore wind potential "outdated" and said work was being**

**undertaken to get a new figure. Could you provide the work which has been undertaken so far, and whether a new figure has been found yet?**

In September, the Energy Secretary set out analytical work that had been conducted to provide new metrics on Scotland's renewable energy potential, fulfilling a previous undertaking to Parliament.

This information was published on the Scottish Parliament website through the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, clearly setting out current and future potential wind generation in Scotland, comparisons with wider geographies, economic impacts, and real-life examples of what wind generation in Scotland could power. The paper notes that Scotland has more than doubled its renewable electricity generation over the last decade. The output of this work can be found via the following link: [Update on Scotland's renewables and wind power potential - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/updates/2023/09/20230920-update-on-scotland-s-renewables-and-wind-power-potential-20230920/)

The Scottish Government has since written to update the Presiding Officer and the Scottish Affairs Committee, to provide an update on this.