



Paper 6/5 Research prioritisation

For discussion

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper outlines some possible research projects the Commission may wish to tender. The outlines of these have been kept high-level and are intended to generate discussion regarding what the Commission believes its research priorities should be.

2. Background

2.1 The Commission has been allocated money for 2019/20 financial year to conduct research that supports its work.

2.2 Identifying and agreeing research priorities for the months ahead will ensure that the full budget is made use of and the Commission is supported as much as possible in its work.

2.3 The three proposals listed in this paper have been based on discussions the secretariat has previously had with members of the Commission.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Commissioners are invited to consider the three proposals contained in this paper and discuss:

- 1) Whether these would make a useful contribution to the work of the Commission.
- 2) The priority they would attach to them being carried out.
- 3) Any other research needs above those listed in this paper that would help the work of the Commission.

Proposal 1 – scoping assessment

Description

An assessment of changes to the Scottish economy likely to arise as a result of action taken to meet the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2019, with a particular focus on the labour market implications.

This would go beyond an earlier piece of work carried out for the Commission, which summarised projections on a 'business as usual' basis ([link](#)).

Aims

- Which sectors of the economy need to grow? Which sectors need to transform?
- What occupations may see demand for their skills increase/decrease as a result of action taken to reduce emissions?
- What are the likely magnitude of such changes?
- How does the picture vary across the country? (we would expect both national and regional projections to be conducted to identify areas where the challenge/opportunity is most acute).

Proposal 2 – detailed labour market information

Description

A study giving a more detailed understanding of job opportunities in a selection of sectors important to delivering the net-zero target. The intention of this would be to provide a more detailed assessment than is currently available in publically-available official labour market statistics.

Aims

The aim of the research would be to document information related to:

- Typical earnings, typical job profiles, skill requirements, functioning of the labour market, and information related to characteristics such as gender.

This information would be presented for occupations in key sectors that face a substantial decarbonisation in the decades ahead: energy (heating and electricity), transport, and the built environment/construction.

Proposal 3 - Industrial decarbonisation – food and drink

Description

Existing literature on industrial decarbonisation in the UK often focuses on the challenge for industrial clusters. This study would look to add to this evidence base by considering the opportunities and challenges posed by decarbonisation for the food and drink industry in Scotland.



Aims

Some of possible aims of this piece of work would be to:

- Understand the unique challenges for companies operating in the food and drink sector in Scotland related to decarbonisation – with a focus both on SME's and larger businesses in the sector.
- Whether there are opportunities for the sector to gain a competitive advantage as a result of reducing emissions.
- Likely barriers to delivering the transition, and how Government may be involved in overcoming these.