

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1 0ET

Cc'd
Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, Claire Perry MP
Prime Minister, Rt Hon Theresa May MP

19 October 2018

Dear Secretary of State,

We are a group of developers and supply chain companies with the potential to deliver the new onshore wind capacity required to help the UK Government meet its climate goals, and provide low-carbon power that will keep consumer bills down. Indeed, resuming pot 1 Contract for Difference auctions between 2019 and 2025 would provide a payback to consumers of £1.6bn.

In addition to being the cheapest form of new power generation, an analysis from the BVG has found that onshore wind has the potential to deliver 18,000 skilled construction jobs, 8,500 long-term skilled jobs and stimulate supply chain investment, resulting in 70% UK content in projects, in those areas where there are no objections to its development¹.

We welcome Government's recent commitment to supporting renewable energy by providing up to £557m for future Contract for Difference auctions which will procure new offshore and remote island wind capacity. Alongside these technologies, we believe that onshore wind can play a vital role in providing affordable, low carbon power to UK consumers.

Thanks to a rapid fall in costs, new onshore wind power can be secured at a subsidy-free price. However, the considerable upfront investments and lack of investor certainty associated with a merchant approach to onshore wind development means that there is a risk this low-cost, low-carbon power source, and its potential, will not be sufficiently utilised without contracts to procure new capacity. In order not to miss the opportunities for growth in supply chain companies and consumer benefit, it is crucial that a decision on procurement through CfD auctions is made now. We note that the Committee on Climate Change² recently recommended that the Government support low-cost options, such as onshore wind, to meet our carbon budgets and the National Infrastructure Commission³ advocates 50% renewable generation by 2030 and reinstatement of a pipeline of Pot 1 CfD auctions.

The Government has delivered on its manifesto commitments, through changes to planning legislation and the National Planning Policy Framework. Therefore, we call on the Government to enable onshore wind to be developed in those communities that want to reap the benefits in social

¹ <https://bvgassociates.com/the-power-of-onshore-wind/>

² <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-uk-emissions-2018-progress-report-to-parliament/>

³ <https://www.nic.org.uk/assessment/national-infrastructure-assessment/>

as well as economic terms. Facilitating the development of onshore wind is pragmatic and perfectly in line with manifesto commitments, and the view publicly expressed by Scottish Conservatives that there should be support for onshore wind where it is appropriate and local communities support it.

There is clear public support for developing new onshore wind as part of a low carbon energy mix. BEIS's own recent public attitudes tracker shows 76% public support for onshore wind. In addition, the government's own advisors recommend support for onshore wind. In the Scottish Parliament there is cross-party support for appropriately-sited new onshore wind and the technology will be vital to meeting renewable energy targets in both Scotland and Wales.

The time really is now for onshore wind. Securing investment in this technology is an opportunity for UK industry and consumers which should not be missed. We therefore urge you to act now to deliver on the potential of onshore wind through new pot 1 CfD auctions.

Yours sincerely,

Lindsay McQuade
Chief Executive Officer
Scottish Power Renewables



Paul Cooley
Director of Generation Development
SSE



David Flood
Managing Director, Statkraft UK
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Danielle Lane
UK Country Manager
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Tanya Davies
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Clark MacFarlane
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Siemens Gamesa Windpower and Renewables



Kresten Ørnbjerg
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Lesley Black
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