I wish to submit comments in respect of the above inquiry. I do so using the notation and the questions contained in your, "Call for Written Evidence". I ask you to note that I am a retired Chartered Surveyor, having spent a lifetime in the construction industry with particular emphasis on power generation projects. I have been involved in the construction, alteration and maintenance of Hunterston A and B Nuclear Power Stations, Hinkley Point B Nuclear Power Station, Inverkip Power Station, Torness Nuclear Power Station and Longannet Coal Fired Power Station amongst various others.

**Targets**

Are the 2020 renewables targets (for electricity and heat) achievable? If not, why not?

No. All forms of green power other than nuclear and hydro require conventional core power as back up. Those who promote this absurd 'renewables' philosophy fail to understand how the supply and demand power equation of a modern technological nation operates. The only individuals who do understand this, but still promote it, are those seeking to make a great deal of money from it.

What contribution will achievement of the 2020 renewables targets, make to meeting Scotland's CO2 emissions targets?

None. As these targets will not be achieved the question is irrelevant.

Will increases in demand from electric heat and transport be offset by efficiencies elsewhere?

No. The opposite will be true. When you talk of 'electric transport', where do you think the electricity will come from? When the green brigade wax on about hydrogen fuelled cars, with what fuel do you think the 'hydrogen' will be made?

Has the Scottish Government made any estimate of the overall cost of achieving the targets, and identified which parties will bear them?

Who cares? The civil servants that I have met with and who will make any such estimate have not one single clue what they are talking about? Similarly, it is not necessary to identify which parties will bear the cost. It will without any shadow of a doubt be the taxpayer and those in fuel poverty. That will be all of us by that time.

**Challenges**

Is the technology to meet these targets available and affordable?
Now this is an interesting question - but the answer is one that has obviously never entered Alex Salmond's head. The entire world's energy problems will be resolved for ever with the development of commercial nuclear fusion. I know this will be getting a bit too 'geeky' for some of you politicians - but just think of it as what is happening in the sun. All that lovely heat and light for free! Believe it or not the scientists are not that far away from making all of this this work here on Earth. When they do, the entire world (with the exception of Scotland of course) will forge ahead producing fusion reactors powered from the deuterium in seawater to provide limitless, cheap energy. What will Scotland be doing then? Why, we will be paying off the forty year long, rip-off contracts that we entered into with the carpetbaggers, while we survey our world famous scenery that has been blighted by a million motionless windmills and wonder where the tourists have gone and why the lights have gone out?

Supply Chain / Planning / Access to Finance / Skills and Workforce / Energy Market Reform

I've just had a quick look through the rest of this rubbish - and honestly, I can't be bothered.

The End
(For Scotland's chances of ever achieving an independent, reliable power supply)

D H Telford
21 February 2012