SUBMISSION FROM GORDON WILSON

I am writing with regard to the inquiry into the Scottish Government's renewable energy targets.

I am concerned about the global impacts of climate change on people and wildlife, and I am not impressed or convinced about legislation to reduce carbon emissions, through the Scottish Climate Change Act, without viable plans to back these up and with SNPs continued interest in Scottish Oil.

To ensure that we can achieve the targets within our Act, it's crucial that we make efforts to put in place viable economic alternatives to fossil fuels. Alongside energy saving measures, nuclear power is the most viable economical energy which will reduce our impact on climate change (please see http://www.withouthotair.com/) and will have a critical role to play in helping Scotland reduce climate emissions as we phase out polluting fossil fuels.

I supported the greens for some time and in the face of James Lovelock's arguments, have tried in vain to get greens, friends of the earth to provide unbiased sources which fully support anti nuclear arguments. These look increasingly threadbare in the face of the recent horizon programme on fukushima and the recent radio 4 programme the legacy of chernobyl.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b010mckx

I do not believe that the evidence supports the view that it's more than possible for all of Scotland's electricity needs to come from renewable sources by 2020.

From what i can recall, analysis by leading independent experts Garrad Hassan indicates heavy dependence on wind which has a very high footprint for its energy output and expresses concern about public resistance to its introduction. There are further economic arguments in without hot air against wind, particularly off shore wind as I recall.

This report has been partially interpreted in the report The Power of Scotland Secured by Friends of the Earth Scotland, RSPB Scotland and WWF Scotland, shows us that meeting ambitious renewable electricity targets is achievable. "This conclusion is backed up by separate work from the industry trade body Scottish Renewables" - no surprise there then.

The problem I have found is that what is really needed is independent, even handed, unbiased analysis - and I think without hot air is such an analysis.

I urge you to rethink these matters and to make truly viable economic plans use so that we can continue to drive forward this agenda and help us successfully deliver the targets of the Scottish Climate Change Act.

I am replying as an individual and I am happy for my response and name to be made public, but not my address.

Mr Gordon Wilson
19 February 2012