Hoolan Energy is a renewable energy development company based in Edinburgh. We are a member of the Orkney Renewable Energy Forum (OREF) and committed to the responsible development of renewable energy power production in Scotland across a range of technologies.

In Orkney, Hoolan Energy has two proposed commercial scale onshore wind farm projects. The projects have the capacity to deliver over 40MW of commercial scale island wind, supporting the delivery of Orkney’s grid connection reinforcement.

Both our projects are transmission scale projects: i.e. we provide financial securitisation at our own risk to help underwrite grid connections, as well as paying Transmission Network Use of System (TNuoS) charges over the operational lifetime of the projects.

We will focus our consultation answers on sections which we believe relate to renewables and grid connectivity to the islands. In general, we welcome the empowering of communities and welcome additional powers for the islands and ‘island proofing’.

In addition to the above mentioned wind projects, Hoolan Energy is actively pursuing and supporting the development of tidal opportunities on Orkney.

The Bill creates a duty to publish a national islands plan and lay it before the Scottish Parliament. What are your views on this provision?

It is important that local authorities affected are instrumental in a national islands plan. We believe it should be for island local authorities to determine specific details, but would welcome the inclusion of a commitment to upgrade grid connections to the islands, with a timeline, in such a plan.

Grid constraints are a Scotland-wide issue. However, grid constraints for Orkney and the other islands are a major barrier to all forms of renewables. We believe a national islands plan should include long term commitments such as grid connection dates for the islands.

Orkney has been at the forefront of the world’s renewable energy development and a new grid connection to the Scottish mainland is required to capitalise the islands’ wave, tidal and wind energy resources.

The Bill will require Scottish Ministers, and certain Scottish public authorities, to prepare island impact assessments. Do you agree with this provision? How do you think it should work in practice?

It is important that Scottish public authorities maintain consistency in relation to island impact assessments.
We support local authorities, and the Our Islands Our Future Campaign, for the need for island proofing to ensure legislation takes into account island communities and does not inadvertently work to their detriment.

**Further Comments**

We welcome the Bill being progressed by the Scottish Parliament and the work carried out by the Our Islands, Our Future Campaign by Orkney Islands Council, Shetland Islands Council and Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar to highlight the importance of island proofing legislation.

Hoolan Energy
September 2017