

PE1864/IIIIII: Increase the ability of communities to influence planning decisions for onshore windfarms

Sharon Dowey MSP written submission, 29 August 2025

I write in support of Petition PE1864, which seeks to strengthen the community voice in planning decisions for onshore windfarms.

While renewable energy has an important role to play in achieving Scotland's net zero ambitions, it is equally important that communities with concerns are properly empowered within the decision-making process. At present, it appears that many local authorities and community councils feel disadvantaged when faced with complex applications and appeals from well-resourced developers.

The proposals in the petition would help to create a fairer, more transparent system. These changes would protect communities and also encourage developers to engage more meaningfully at an earlier stage, leading to better outcomes for all stakeholders.

I am pleased to add my support to this petition and commend it to the Committee for further consideration.