

PE1864/000000: Increase the ability of communities to influence planning decisions for onshore windfarms

Petitioner written submission, 12 January 2025

The Scottish Government has just published the Consultation on raising the 50MW threshold as a direct result of our Petition so there is one point I'd like to make the Committee aware of in advance of Wednesday's meeting:

The Committee has supported the Petition by recommending that the Scottish Government explores the scope for planning authorities to determine more applications for onshore windfarm developments by raising the 50MW threshold **while ensuring that genuine local support is a key material consideration in the decision-making process**. That "genuine local support" is important as there is no point in giving local authorities the power to make decisions on ever larger wind farms or other forms of generating stations, (which can still be appealed), if the views and wishes of the local community can still be ignored. Both must come together as a package - raise the threshold and increase the ability of communities to influence planning decisions.