

Petitioner submission of 14 May 2023

PE1885/L: Make offering Community Shared Ownership mandatory for all windfarm development planning proposals

It is good to read the Minister's reply and her openness to dialogue on the possible use of the devolved Land and Tax laws, as well as the Scottish Government's Powers under Section 36, to make a Community Shared Ownership offer compulsory for all new windfarm developments. However, a) the Minister has not indicated how this discussion is to take place in order that the Petitioner, the Community and the Committee might engage/input to this discussion. And b) nor has she indicated whether the Scottish Civil service and its legal/constitutional experts agree (from a technical perspective, putting aside political considerations) that the Scottish Government actually has the power to make such provisions under its devolved powers (as per the original petition) and its Section 36 powers that it admitted it had to the Committee back in 2022.

Given the massive increase in on-shore wind farm generation needed to meet the Scottish Government's targets it is imperative that these questions are answered urgently and if feasible, implemented without delay in order that the huge number of impacted communities might gain such offers and, if they chose to accept, benefit from the windfarm developments. It would also help ensure the Scottish Government met its 2030 target of 3GW of Community owned renewable energy projects which it is currently failing to meet. Thus, I would ask that Minister gives a speedy response to the 2 questions outlined above.