

# **PE2160/C: Introduce an energy strategy**

## **Petitioner written submission, 28 August 2025**

I am studying for an MSc in the Economics of Renewable Energy at Heriot Watt University, so I am well placed to make this analysis.

I view the problems not only as the pervading windfarms and pylons causing a cumulative negative effect on the Scottish landscape, but also the highly flammable and dangerous Battery Energy Storage Systems. Caithness and Sutherland, in particular, do not have the capacity to deal with huge fires should one of the BESS fail causing an electrical fire, due to the remoteness and lack of resources by the Scottish Fire Services. The Scottish Ambulance Service would not be able to cope either, especially in Caithness General Hospital, Wick.

One consideration would be to have the infrastructure examined closely and ask the Ministers to update the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016.

The Just Transition Commission will not publish their plan for Caithness until the first quarter of 2026.

In terms of other work that might be happening to address the petition:

Battery Energy Storage Systems – The Highland Council has already started to take this on board due to my report and that of another expert.

Offshore wind – is not being addressed holistically, and some developers, such as at Sinclair Bay, the onshore windfarm has been applied for but not the offshore. Planning regulations are not keeping in line with what the developers are submitting. Even onshore wind, I note that one developer who has had planning permission for some time, but has not gone ahead, and meanwhile they have other options in hand.

The Scottish Government should update the Scottish Outdoor Access Code as a matter of urgency as well as the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016. The Core Paths can then incorporate the windfarm roads, which is not happening at the moment.