



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Gordon Lindhurst MSP  
Convenor  
Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

20 December

Dear Gordon,

I am writing in connection with the publication this week of our Scottish Energy Strategy – *The Future of Energy in Scotland*.

The Strategy is available online at [www.gov.scot/energystrategy](http://www.gov.scot/energystrategy).

Our Strategy adopts a clear vision for 2050 – of a flourishing, competitive local and national energy sector, delivering secure, affordable, clean energy for Scotland's households, communities and businesses. It sets out six priorities which will guide the inclusive transition that we aim to achieve. These include a sustained focus on energy efficiency and renewables, the role of innovative, distributed and local energy models, the importance of exploring supply chain opportunities and the continuing importance of our oil and gas sector – all the while protecting and involving Scotland's consumers, and retaining a strong, secure and resilient energy system.

The Strategy confirms two new and ambitious targets for Scotland by 2030. These are to generate from renewable sources the equivalent of 50% of the energy used for Scotland's heat transport and electricity consumption, and to increase, by 30%, the productivity of our energy use across the Scottish economy. We have set out, within the Strategy, a series of short and near-term actions consistent with these targets and with our wider priorities, and also an assessment of the economic opportunities for Scotland associated with this transition to a low carbon energy future.

We are particularly grateful to the Committee for taking the time to consider the draft Energy Strategy earlier this year, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the final Strategy with you in due course.

*Kind regards*

**PAUL WHEELHOUSE**