

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

Gordon Lindhurst MSP
Convener
Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SP

4 September 2019

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter of 26 June, asking for information on common frameworks relating to energy matters to help the Committee plan its forward work programme.

I understand that the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work has already given you an overview of the process of developing common frameworks, so I will not repeat that here.

The UK Government's list of common frameworks includes two pertaining to energy policies. The common framework for "EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)" is within the climate portfolio under the ECCLR Committee. A non-legislative common framework across the UK might be needed to support governance arrangements alongside existing legal provisions to establish emissions trading schemes within the Climate Change Act 2008. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform continues to keep the ECCLR Committee updated on progress in these negotiations (a copy of the most recent letter is attached).

In addition, "Efficiency in energy use" and "High efficiency cogeneration / Combined Heat and Power" have also been listed. However, I consider it unlikely that the UK Government intends to progress these specific common frameworks; the Scottish Government does not see any need for common frameworks on these matters, and there has been no Ministerial or official discussion of them. Rather, they have been incorporated into the wider energy & climate discussions between the UK Government and devolved administrations on EU Exit.

These discussions have now moved on to wider matters of energy and climate governance. My officials are investigating options to deal with the loss of important elements of EU energy and climate law covering information-sharing, decision-making, expert advice, external scrutiny and dispute resolution around renewables, energy efficiency, and greenhouse gas targets.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



Accredited
Until 2020



I am approaching discussions with the recent advice of the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) in mind. The CCC has been clear that the complementary operation of reserved and devolved policy levers will be required if the countries of the UK are to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Discussions are at a very early stage and I will contact you with more information, once a course of action has been agreed with the other administrations.

Kind regards



Paul Wheelhouse

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



Accredited
Until 2020

