

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

SUBMISSION FROM NHSScotland's National Energy Forum and National Sustainability Steering Group

Call for Evidence- Climate Change Bill - The Scottish Government

On behalf of NHSScotland's National Energy Forum and National Sustainability Steering Group we very much welcome and support Scottish Government's initiative to move Scotland towards a low carbon economy. The direction of travel between now and 2050 with the proposed reductions in emissions will undoubtedly be extremely challenging, but could be achieved if the correct investments are made into cost effective low carbon solutions.

We do feel there should be more detail particularly in the shorter term, i.e. between now and 2030, so that everyone has a clearer vision of the requirements and how these could be achieved in each sector. This would benefit all participating sectors and organisations to put strategic plans in place to help achieve the required reductions.

From an NHS perspective, we have had to work in a constrained environment – both technically and financially – since the baseline year, particularly around the financial restrictions of not being able to borrow or utilise revenue funded initiatives. However, despite these limitations we continue to deliver a great deal of success, in reducing both our energy use and associated emissions. As part of our energy and emissions reporting regime, we annually assess our own performance. Between financial years 1989/90 (the Climate Change Act baseline year) and 2017/18, the NHSScotland energy consumption has reduced by over 38% and associated greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by over 49%. This progress aligns well with Scottish Government aspirations. However, we do anticipate the road ahead to 2050 will be much more challenging, particularly in sourcing suitable finance for carbon reduction projects. But we will endeavour to approach the challenge with a high degree of vigour.