

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural
Environment

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Edward Mountain MSP

Convenor of the Rural Economy and Connectivity
Committee

The Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh

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By email: rec.committee@parliament.scot

3rd November 2020

Dear Edward,

This letter is to inform you of the publication of the final Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy ("the Sectoral Marine Plan") and the Offshore Wind Policy Statement ("OWPS"). Public consultation was undertaken on draft documents, between December 2019 and March 2020, and the outputs of the consultation process have influenced the finalisation of the Sectoral Marine Plan and OWPS.

The OWPS sets out our ambition to capitalise on the potential that offshore wind development can bring to Scotland and the role this technology could play in meeting our commitment to reach net-zero by 2045, building on the ambitions outlined in the Scottish Energy Strategy (2017). Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/978-1-80004-237-7>

The Sectoral Marine Plan provides the spatial framework for Crown Estate Scotland's seabed leasing round for commercial-scale offshore wind ('ScotWind' leasing round). Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800042421>

If you have any queries regarding these processes, please do not hesitate to contact officials handling the Sectoral Marine Plan process via e-mail at: SectoralMarinePlanning@gov.scot, or officials handling the OWPS process at: OffshoreWindPolicy@gov.scot

MAIRI GOUGEON

PAUL WHEELHOUSE

Kind regards

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

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