

**Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee
Tuesday 01 September 2026
2nd Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)**

Overview of Scotland's energy sector

Background

1. At its meeting on 23 June, the Committee agreed to hold a series of introductory evidence sessions to inform its future work programme and develop Members' understanding of its remit.
2. This week, the Committee will hear from two academics on Scotland's energy sector.

Evidence session

3. The Committee will hear two separate presentations from—
 - Professor Sir Dieter Helm, University of Oxford; and then from
 - Dr Simon Gill, Director of Grid Innovation Strategy, University of Strathclyde.
4. Short biographies are attached in the Annexe

**Clerks to the Committee
August 2026**

Annexe – biographies

Professor Sir Dieter Helm

Dieter Helm is Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Oxford and Fellow in Economics at New College, Oxford. From 2012 to 2020, he was Independent Chair of the Natural Capital Committee, providing advice to the government on the sustainable use of natural capital. In *The Cost of Energy Review*, commissioned by the government in 2017, he set out a framework for transitioning the UK energy sector to net zero while maintaining energy security.

Dieter specialises in three key areas: Energy & Climate; Regulation, Utilities & Infrastructure; and Natural Capital & the Environment. He provides extensive expert advice to UK and European governments, regulators and companies across all three areas.

Dieter has authored many books, papers and has a regular podcast *Helm Talks*. His two most recent books address first what should be done to tackle climate change and build the sustainable economy ([*Legacy: How to Build the Sustainable Economy*](#)), before setting out why it's not happening and what must change. [*Climate Realism: Facing the Facts about Energy*](#) shows how there is no transition, the target is wrong, there is no such thing as clean energy, renewables are not cheap, offsets don't work, and there are no get-out-of-jail cards.

Dieter is a Vice President of the Exmoor Society, a Vice President of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, and Honorary Fellow, Brasenose College, Oxford.

Dr Simon Gill

Dr Simon Gill is Director of Grid Innovation Strategy and Principal Knowledge Exchange Fellow at the University of Strathclyde. He works across academia, industry and government to support innovation in electricity networks and the transition to a net-zero energy system. He brings a whole-energy-system perspective, having worked on a wide range of energy challenges including electricity market reform, the future of the gas network, hydrogen, and heat decarbonisation. His current role focuses on building partnerships, translating research into practical outcomes, and contributing to discussions on energy policy, markets, system operation and network development. Previously, he worked as an independent consultant on electricity and energy system development and held a number of roles in the public sector, including Head of Whole System and Technical Policy at the Scottish Government.

Simon holds a number of advisory roles including as a member of the SGN Independent Stakeholder Group, as an Associate with Regen, and as a technical adviser to the Directorate for Energy and Climate Change in the Scottish Government.

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