

Kirstin Keyes

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Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension – Application Covering Letter

Dear Kirstin

Following previous discussions and Gate Check, please find enclosed an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and for a direction that planning consent be deemed to be granted under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) for the proposed development of Hare Hill Repowering and Extension (the proposed Development). The proposed Development is approximately 1.5 kilometres (km) south east of the village of New Cumnock and 4.5 km west of Kirkcunel. The application for consent is being submitted by Natural Power Consultants Limited (Natural Power) on behalf of ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited (the Applicant) [Company Registration Number - NI028425], The Soloist, 1 Lanyon Place, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 3LP.

The proposed Development will comprise:

- The turbines and ancillary infrastructure:
 - The proposed Development would involve the construction of up to 23 wind turbines: 7 with a maximum tip height of 200 metres (m); 9 with a maximum tip height of 180 m; and 7 with a maximum tip height of 150 m.
- Turbine foundations and hardstandings;
- External transformer housing;
- Crane pads;
- Access tracks (c. 21 km new and 7 km upgraded);
- Underground electricity cables;
- Temporary borrow pits;
- Temporary construction and storage compounds with ancillary infrastructure;
- Site signage and snow poles;
- Onsite substation, storage building and control building; and
- Waste water and drainage attenuation measures (as required).

The Proposed Development has a total generation capacity of up to 130 MW. The lifespan of the proposed Development would be 50 years.

Connection of the Proposed Development to the national grid will be subject to a separate application.

Any public road required for access to the site entrance may be utilised subject to upgrades where necessary. Biodiversity management and enhancement will be undertaken within the proposed Development Site.

In addition to this covering letter, the application is supported by a Planning and Renewable Energy Statement, a Design and Access Statement (DAS), a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The EIAR comprises of four volumes as follows:

- Volume 1 of the EIAR presents the EIAR Chapters;
- Volume 2a of the EIAR presents the Figures (Excluding Visualisations from **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Assessment & Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage & Archaeology**);
- Volume 2b of the EIAR presents the visualisations from Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Assessment & Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage & Archaeology;
- Volume 3 of the EIAR presents the Technical Appendices; and
- Volume 4 Includes the Non-Technical Summary (NTS).

A carbon balance assessment report has been produced and MS Excel based assessment tool¹ completed to determine the carbon payback time for the Proposed Development (see EIAR Volume 3 Technical Appendix 14.2 for full details). The results from the carbon calculator reveal that the net impact of the proposed Development will be positive overall, as over a 40-year lifespan of the proposed Development, it is expected to generate over 37 years' worth of clean energy if it replaced fossil fuel electricity generation.

All of the above documents (besides the confidential appendices and figures) have been submitted to the ECU Portal (case reference: ECU00004967 and will be available from 26 January 2026 on the Applicant's website https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/hare_hill_windfarm_repowering.aspx

The Applicant intends to advertise the application as follows:

- The Edinburgh Gazette for one consecutive week;
- The Herald for one consecutive week; and
- The Cumnock Chronicle (which covers the area in which the Proposed Development would be located) for two consecutive weeks.

The following Community Councils and community groups have been sent an email notifying them of the application and where to view the planning application documents via email:

- Kirconnel & Kelloholm Community Council;
- New Cumnock Community Council;
- Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District Community Council;
- New Cumnock Development Trust; and
- 9CC Group.

Additionally, the following Local Councillors for East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway have been sent an email notifying them of the application and where to view the planning application documents via email:

- Tony Berretti: Ward 7 - Mid and Upper Nithsdale Councillor;
- Jim Dempster: Ward 7 - Mid and Upper Nithsdale Councillor;

¹ The online version of the carbon calculator is the latest version of the tool but is currently unavailable due to technical difficulties. As a result, Applicant has made use of the MS Excel based assessment tool, version 2.14.1 (last updated January 2023). Data should be uploaded to the online tool when it becomes available again.

- Andrew Wood: Ward 7 - Mid and Upper Nithsdale Councillor;
- William Crawford: Ward 8 - Cumnock and New Cumnock;
- June Kyle: Ward 8 - Cumnock and New Cumnock;
- Jim McMahon: Ward 8 - Cumnock and New Cumnock; and
- Neill Watts: Ward 8 - Cumnock and New Cumnock.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Lesley Cartwright
Senior Consenting and EIA Consultant

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]
cc. Steven Sherry [Redacted text]