



Energy Security and Net Zero Committee

14 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NB

Tel.: 020 7219 1318 E-mail: CommonsESNZ@parliament.uk

Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
[by email]

Thursday, 30 July 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. My Committee and I look forward to a productive working relationship with you and the Department during your tenure.

I am writing to you following concerns that have been raised with the Committee regarding the Department's consultation on the Eskdalemuir seismic array and its implications for wind farm development in southern Scotland and northern England.

The consultation process has been extended three times as a response to concerns raised by stakeholders in feedback. Those stakeholders have shared concerns with us as to whether all the relevant evidence was considered before the consultation process was launched, including the consideration of mitigation proposals on any potential interference caused by wind turbines.

I am forwarding you a copy of correspondence from CWP received by the Committee which sets out these concerns in more detail. I would be grateful if you could respond to the concerns outlined in the letter and in particular, address the specific concerns regarding the adequacy of the consultation process, including:

- Whether the consultation has been conducted in accordance with established Government consultation principles and guidance;
- Whether decisions were effectively reached before all relevant evidence submitted by stakeholders had been properly considered;
- Whether material factual errors have been made in both current and proposed policy;
- Whether sufficient enquiry was undertaken before the consultation was launched, including a full assessment of available technical solutions;
- Whether the proposed restrictions are proportionate and whether alternative approaches or reasonable conditions could be applied instead;
- Whether the relevant planning and policy frameworks have been interpreted correctly; and
- Whether sufficient regard has been given to the Government's wider climate change commitments, and the need to achieve the UK's 2030 clean energy and net zero objectives.

I would be grateful if you could respond to us before the close of the consultation period on 5 August 2026.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Esterson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Bill Esterson
Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee