



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Michael Shanks MP
Minister of State for Energy

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Bill Esterson MP
Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee
House of Commons
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8 September 2026

Dear Bill,

Eskdalemuir seismic array

Thank you for your letter and words of welcome for the Secretary of State which she appreciates. I am responding as onshore wind and Eskdalemuir fall under my portfolio.

Thank you for raising the concerns of CWP. I am familiar with CWP's concerns and both me and my officials have engaged with them on many of these issues previously. CWP have also submitted a response to the consultation. To avoid giving CWP preferential treatment over other stakeholders who have provided responses through the consultation only, we do not at this stage consider it to be appropriate to substantively engage with CWP's requests outside of the formal consultation process.

Furthermore, CWP sent the Secretary of State pre-action correspondence raising issues with the consultation and have reserved their right to issue proceedings to challenge the consultation. Given that litigation is anticipated (or at least highly likely), the Secretary of State cannot provide further information that might prejudice our position in any future proceedings.

However, having regard to my duty to account to Parliament and in particular to paragraphs 1.6b to 1.6e of the Ministerial Code, I can assure you that the consultation on the Eskdalemuir seismic array has been conducted fairly, openly and in accordance with government consultation guidance and principles. The consultation seeks views on any feasible, alternative approaches and technical solutions to managing onshore wind interference with the Eskdalemuir array. All evidence presented via the consultation, including by CWP, will be carefully considered by officials and no final decision has been taken on the policy or technical approach at Eskdalemuir.

After CWP wrote to you in July, we published supplementary information to the consultation, to allow for more detailed responses on the technical aspects of the proposals. Although the supplementary information did not change the core policy proposals in the consultation, we nevertheless extended the consultation by a further four weeks until 5th August to allow stakeholders time to consider this additional information.

Ultimately, I am committed to working openly across industry and government to find a solution to remove barriers and unlock onshore wind capacity around Eskdalemuir.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Shanks" followed by a period. The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

Michael Shanks MP
Minister of State for Energy