

Response to RIIO-ED2 Draft Determinations Consultation

Consultation question:

SPEN-Q6. What are your views on our proposals for SPEN's bespoke UMs?

We were disappointed to read Ofgem's draft determination in relation to SPEN's proposal to establish a Distribution Net Zero Fund. As an organisation that benefitted from SPEN's Green Economy Fund in 2019, we cannot express strongly enough the value of such funding for a voluntary organisation such as ours. As a transport operator supporting vulnerable older people across Scotland, Food Train has a significant sized fleet of vans and minibuses across the country, however as a non-profit making organisation, the costs involved in moving towards an all electric fleet are substantial and unaffordable without grant funding. Sadly, these grant funding opportunities are scarce. With the exception of the EST Plugged-in Communities Fund, there has been no other opportunity for our organisation to access similar funding since 2019 and we still have 82% of our fleet to convert to electric. If the Government's Net Zero ambitions are to be realised, greater investment is necessary. Working with SPEN during the delivery of the Green Economy Fund projects was a pleasure, with SPEN's position, expertise and connections across sectors and communities providing great added value to the funder relationship. The Green Economy Fund funding not only allowed Food Train to start our journey towards a fully electric fleet, but also allowed for the expansion of our support services across a wider geographic area, supporting hundreds more older people on a weekly basis, which proved to be invaluable during the covid-19 pandemic when so many more older people were isolated and vulnerable. £30m actually feels like a drop in the ocean when considering the scale of work that is required across all sectors to move towards Net Zero ambitions. Given the lack of funding available, we strongly support the establishment of a Distribution Net Zero Fund.



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