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Victoria Low
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Re: Future of local energy institutions and governance call for Input

Dear Victoria,

I am writing on behalf of RenewableUK, which is the representative body for the future energy system, powered by clean electricity. Many of our 400 members work to promote wind energy, which will help to deliver a net zero future faster; a future which is better for industry, billpayers and the environment.

RenewableUK welcomes the call for input on the Future of local energy institutions and governance. Effective design of government arrangements at sub-national level is to the benefit of energy consumers of the UK.

RenewableUK would like to express its strong support for Scottish Renewables' submission to this call for input and the need for reform. Whole energy system design must be at the heart of future local governance arrangements. This must include energy system planning with appropriate oversight across electricity, heat and transport and the full consumption and production value chain including beyond the meter.

To meet the legally binding requirement of net zero by 2050 and deliver a locally-led whole system solution, it is imperative that key energy system functions are performed by institutions with well-defined capabilities and that there is clear accountability and coordination in the delivery of these functions.

Out of the framework models presented in the call for input, Model 3 (Regional energy planning and delivery agencies) and 4 (Interacting organisations) appear to provide the best approach. As outlined in Scottish Renewables' submission, Model 3 and 4 may be most appropriate to hold the capabilities and accountability for energy system planning, while the activities for flexibility market and real time operation could be delivered by third parties.

We welcome the reform at national level and the Electricity System Operator transition to Future System Operator which will play a vital role in helping us deliver net zero. While governance reform at sub-national level will take time to implement, RenewableUK recommends that a longer-term pathway of institutional reform is developed. Ofgem should urgently identify no-regrets actions to enable integrated local energy plans which can be pursued in advance of a major institutional or governance reform.

Best regards,

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