

Email to: Resp@ofgem.gov.uk

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**Crown Estate Scotland's Response to Regional Energy Strategic Plan Impact Assessment
Consultation**

Crown Estate Scotland welcomes the consultation above and we enclose our response below.

Crown Estate Scotland was established in 2017 and manages land and property on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. Our purpose is to invest in property, natural resources, and people to deliver lasting value for Scotland.

The assets we manage include four rural estates, just under half the foreshore, virtually all the seabed out to 12 nautical miles, seabed out to 200 nautical miles, salmon fishing rights, retail and office units and rights to naturally occurring gold and silver across most of Scotland. Our strategic objectives set out in our 2020-26 Corporate Plan include supporting the growth of the blue economy, investing in creating great places, and involving people in how seabed, land and coastline are managed.

In 2022, Crown Estate Scotland awarded option agreements to 20 offshore wind projects through our ScotWind leasing process. ScotWind was the first offshore leasing round in Scotland for over a decade. In 2023, we awarded exclusivity agreements to 12 projects under the INTOG (Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas) leasing round. This was the world's first leasing round designed to enable offshore wind to directly supply oil and gas platforms. INTOG aims to attract investment for innovative offshore wind projects in Scottish waters, as well as to help decarbonise North Sea operations.

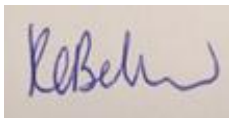
Crown Estate Scotland broadly welcomes the approach to the impact assessment for the Regional Energy Strategic Plan (RESP). The sub regional approach which will feed into the overall Scotland RESP region is a positive step. It is crucial that when developing the RESP impact assessment and future methodology, the sub regions based on Scottish Distribution Network Operator (DNO) sectors are weighted appropriately when developing the whole of Scotland RESP region. This is appropriate given the widescale differences in grid supply and demand between the sub regions. For example, future large-scale supply in the Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) DNO due to the introduction of further ScotWind projects off the Aberdeenshire and Moray coasts. We also welcome that the islands, although not a DNO area are included given the nuances of supply to this sub region, given the potential for expansion of tidal and wave generation especially in the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters (PFOW) Strategic Area. We look forward to further engagement on the specifics of the RESP methodology in these matters throughout its development. The holistic approach to RESP in not only addressing energy infrastructure needs per RESP region but also transmission and distribution network enabling infrastructure such as transportation and industry is also welcome. Particularly given the challenges of large-scale grid development in the islands region and SSEN DNO region.

In addition to this, the RESP impact assessment and methodology must also ensure that embedded generation is appropriately represented. This includes accounting for variations in definitions for small, medium and large embedded generation across RESP regions and DNOs.

Finally, Crown Estate Scotland welcomes the phased approach both the RESP consultations and regional RESP forums but also for the phased implementation of RESP using the tRESP pathway. Both approaches will ensure that community engagement is at the core of the process and that developers, communities and regional planners are able to fully adapt to the full planned adoption of RESP.

Again, Crown Estate Scotland looks forward to our close engagement with the development of RESP over the coming months and years.

Yours Sincerely



Kate Bellew

Policy Manager