**RIIO-T3 Draft Determination**

1. Response from Ardrossan Scout Group
2. Responding to SPTQ1 in the RIIO - T3 Draft Determination - SPT
3. Non confidential
4. Ardrossan Scout Group is an educational charity, registered with OSCR (Scottish Charity Regulator) SC011044. Our project is the refurbishment including retrofitting our 1960s building to add insulation, new triple glazed windows, LED lighting and installation of an air source heat pump. Our building is coming to the end of its lifespan and is in need of major upgrading.

We have benefitted from the Net Zero Fund, at a time when costs are escalating and community groups are struggling to find funding. We have had difficulty in obtaining funding from other sources. There is a reduction generally in funding from both public and private sectors. There is also a requirement for match funding in many cases, which it is not always possible to obtain. We have also found that there are less sources of capital funding available compared to revenue funding. We disagree with the proposal to reduce the scope of the Net Zero Fund, which would remove access to funding for community projects. We wish to support the continuation of the Net Zero Fund within its current parameters.

We believe SPEN is well placed to deliver this fund as an electricity network operator supporting a fair transition to net zero. They now have the relevant experience of supporting community projects via the RIIO - T2 Net Zero Fund and Green Economy Fund. In addition to the funding itself, we have benefitted from all the help and advice given to us by the Net Zero Team.

Our building is not just used by the various sections of the Scout Group, but is used by a number of community groups. We want to expand that use and make it a real community hub. We want to be able to offer a warm welcoming space to community users. We are within an area where there are some high levels of deprivation.

The fund will benefit our users in improving the facility and reducing energy costs, which can be reinvested back into the running and maintenance of the building to ensure it remains an affordable space for all. It will also reduce our carbon emissions and contribute towards the transition to net zero. We intend to share our learning from this project with our Scout sections and community users and show how we are contributing towards the transition to net zero. This learning will also be helpful for our Scout sections in working towards Global Issues and Community Impact badges.

The Net Zero Fund has been invaluable to us and without it we would not be able to complete the refurbishment.