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| **Directorate For Energy and Climate Change**  **Leigh Rafferty**  T: 0300 244 2947  E: leigh.rafferty@gov.scot |  |
| Jon Parker  Head of Electricity Network Access  Ofgem  10 South Colonnade  Canary Wharf  London  E14 4PU  [NetworkAccessReform@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:NetworkAccessReform@ofgem.gov.uk) |  |

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18 September 2018

Dear Jon

I am writing in connection with Ofgem’s consultation ‘*Getting more out of our electricity networks by reforming access and forward-looking charging arrangements’*, issued on July 23rd.

The Scottish Energy Strategy (our Strategy) sets out our vision for the future energy system in Scotland.[[1]](#footnote-1) It articulates a vision built around our priorities, many of which are in line with those outlined in your consultation, and in tune with the wider direction of travel across the UK. For example, among other things, we want to see:

* consumers protected from excessive or avoidable costs.
* our local communities empowered by innovative local energy systems.
* Scotland’s huge potential for renewable energy resources maximised to deliver a significant increase in renewable and low carbon energy solutions – including decarbonised heat and transport solutions.
* the capacity, connections, flexibility and resilience in Scotland necessary to ensure a secure and reliable supply of energy to our homes and businesses as the energy transition progresses.

Scotland’s electricity networks will play a vital part in delivering our Strategy, and the transition towards this low carbon future. It is crucial that they develop in a way that supports the delivery of our ambitions, allowing us to deliver on our commitments to Scotland and to support the decarbonisation of the energy system across Great Britain. This includes the development of a regulatory framework that ensures fair, and proportionate network access, as well as charging outcomes that balance a commitment to deliver consumer value with the need to deliver a sustainable future.

While we agree that the current arrangements need reform, this needs to take place in a way that takes in to account the significant benefits to the whole of GB of the development and connection of renewable and low carbon generation across Scotland.

We would like to record our support for the principles set out in the response to this consultation submitted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The Highlands and Islands of Scotland are home to the most productive wind farm sites in the UK and have the resource to supply significantly more renewable electricity from on and offshore wind. Regulatory arrangements and approaches which are conducive to realising this potential will help ensure a sustainable future and positive outcomes for all energy consumers across GB.

We remain very interested in the approaches to network regulation, investment and innovation needed to support the energy transition, and are keen to remain closely engaged with Ofgem as these processes and debates continue to evolve. I would therefore be grateful if you could add me to your list of stakeholders to be kept up to date of developments.

Kind regards,

**Leigh Rafferty**

Head of Electricity Networks and Regulation

1. The Scottish Energy Strategy is available here: <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/12/5661/downloads>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)