

during a time of such fundamental change. Any efforts to streamline this would be welcome.

We have set out our response to the specified consultations questions below and would be happy to contribute to any additional work arising from this consultation.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Smith  
**Senior Policy Manager**  
**Scottish Renewables**

## Response – Incentive on Connections Engagement – SSEN

About you and your work	
1. What is the name of your company?	Scottish Renewables
2. Is your response confidential? <b>Please explain which parts and why.</b>  For a fair process, we prefer the DNOs to be able to respond to any comments made, particularly if they are negative. So please consider carefully before marking any part of your response confidential.'	No.
3. Which DNO's ICE submission is your response related to?  If you wish to provide a response to the ICE submission of more than one DNO group, <b>please use a</b>	SSEN  (We have submitted a separate response for SPEN).

<p><b>separate template for each group.</b></p>				
<p>4. What type of connection do you generally require?</p> <p>For each type of connection, how many connection applications, including total MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) of connections have you made in the past year?</p>	<b>Type of connection</b>		<b>Total number of connections</b>	<b>Total MVA of connections</b>
	None – Scottish Renewables is a trade association, representing over 260 organisations working to deliver Scotland’s renewable energy industry.			
	<b>Metered Demand Connections</b>	Low Voltage (LV) Work		
		High Voltage (HV) Work		
		HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work		
		EHV work and above		
	<b>Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</b>	LV work		
		HV and EHV work		
	<b>Unmetered Connections</b>	Local Authority (LA) work		
		Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work		
Other work				

## Section 1: Looking Back report 2018/19

*We want your views on how well the DNOs have engaged with connections stakeholders over the last regulatory year*

<p>1. How many of the DNO’s stakeholder engagement events have you been invited to this year? (This can include engagement outside official events.) Please tick a box.</p>	none	1	2	3	4	5	6	>6
								X
<p>2. How many DNO Stakeholder events have you been to? This can also include meetings outside of official engagement events. Please tick a box.</p>	none	1	2	3	4	5	6	>6
								X

<p>3. Tell us about how the DNO engaged with you:</p> <p><b>a)</b> What did the DNO do?</p> <p><b>b)</b> How did the DNO do it?</p> <p><b>c)</b> Did the DNO have a robust engagement strategy?</p>	<p><b>a)</b> SSEN has clearly worked to form a strong relationship with Scottish Renewables, allowing us and our industry membership to engage readily. SSEN has a strong events programme, which is key to enabling us and our members to engage, learn and discuss key issues. SSEN was also a visible participant in a number of key industry events, such as All Energy and the Scottish Renewables Hydropower Conference. We have been pleased to see SSEN engage directly with us, through taking up speaking slots at conferences and attending meetings with our membership (such as on outages).</p> <p><b>b)</b> Direct B2B relationships have been part of this, with a number of meetings between SSEN and Scottish Renewables staff building a strong working relationship. Additionally, we – and our members – were in receipt of emails and newsletters. Publications and consultation responses were well advertised, with good opportunity for industry feed-in. Social media activity gave another layer of useful visibility.</p> <p><b>c)</b> Yes, we believe SSEN to have operated a robust engagement strategy.</p>
<p><b>The DNO's work plan</b></p>	
<p>4. <i>Objectives:</i> Have you seen the DNOs work plans and the objectives they outline?</p> <p><b>a)</b> Does it take into consideration your needs? If so, how?</p> <p><b>b)</b> If it doesn't please explain why.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>5. <i>Actions:</i> Do you think the DNO has delivered its work plan?</p> <p><b>a)</b> How has the DNO done this?</p> <p><b>b)</b> If you do not think the DNO has delivered its work plan, please explain why.</p> <p><b>c)</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><b>a)</b> It is clear that along with a particularly robust events programme, SSEN has delivered on its commitments (mostly to time) and that commitments have met key KPIs.</p>

6. <i>Outputs:</i> Were the outputs (KPIs, targets etc) in the DNO’s work plan appropriate? Did the DNO meet these outputs? Please explain why.	Yes.  We believe that appropriate outputs were identified (and received considerable stakeholder engagement as they were drawn up). In our view these outputs have been met.			
<b>Your feedback on the DNOs stakeholder engagement performance</b>				
7. Do you think the DNO’s strategy, activities and outputs have taken into account ongoing feedback from a broad and inclusive range of connections stakeholders?	Yes – particularly around accessibility of materials (i.e. producing summaries of what can otherwise be large volumes of documentation).  Outages proved a key concern for some Scottish Renewables members lately, and SSEN were very quick to respond and engage.			
8. How satisfied are you with the DNO’s overall engagement performance?	very unsatisfied	not satisfied	satisfied	very satisfied
				X
9. General feedback – please provide any further feedback on the DNO’s 2018/19 engagement performance not covered in your responses above.	Scottish Renewables continues to question whether ICE is the most appropriate mechanism for driving good performance from DNOs around connections.  It is evident that a considerable amount of resource is put into a very robust engagement programme, and while this is welcome, it needs to be noted that industry (particularly small businesses) have limited capacity to engage.			

## Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2019/20

*We want your views on what the DNO aims to achieve in the coming year*

10. Are you satisfied that the DNO has a comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connection stakeholders and facilitating joint discussions where appropriate?	Yes
11. Do you agree that the DNO has a comprehensive work plan of activities (with associated delivery dates) that will meet the	Yes, the work plans are robust, and easily digestible. Scottish Renewables believes that work plans across the DNOs must look to enable our transition to 'net-zero carbon emissions' within the timescales committed to by Government. We are therefore

<p>requirements of its connection stakeholders? If not, has the DNO provided reasonable and well-justified reasons? What other activities should the DNO do?</p>	<p>pleased to see several commitments from SSEN look to aid the connection of renewable generators, which of course will underpin this transition.</p> <p>We are particularly pleased to see commitments around flexibility services emerge – this is something that we and our membership has been keen to see progressed. Industry has continually fed-back to the DNOs and other stakeholders that heat maps are a useful tool, so the commitment to introduce a more granular level of detail of constraint on heat maps is welcome.</p> <p>In our view, SSEN have been particularly proactive in considering the impact of Electric Vehicles on their network, and we welcome their commitment to develop, share and update their electric vehicle strategy with stakeholders.</p>
<p>12. Do you consider that the DNO has set relevant outputs that it will deliver during the regulatory year (eg key performance indicators, targets, etc.)?</p>	<p>Yes – we believe these to be robust.</p>
<p>13. Would you agree that the DNO’s proposed strategy, activities and outputs have been informed and endorsed by a broad and inclusive range of connection stakeholders? If not, has the DNO provided robust evidence that it has pursued this engagement?</p>	<p>Yes – in our view it is evidence that strategy, activities and outputs have been informed and endorsed by a broad and inclusive range of connection stakeholders.</p>