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The Royal Society of Edinburgh
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To whom it may concern

Scotland's Energy Future

Scottish Renewables is the voice of the renewable energy industry in Scotland, representing around 270 organisations working across the full range of technologies providing clean, sustainable, low-carbon heat, power and transport to Britain's homes and businesses.

In this exciting period of transformation for the energy sector, we welcome this Inquiry by the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The growth of the renewable energy sector has been one of the defining shifts in our energy system over the last decade, with renewables in Scotland now generating a significant share of the UK's electricity needs.

Advances in technology and rapid cost reductions mean that our industry can generate further economic and environmental benefit to Scotland and the UK – providing more affordable energy for households and business, and driving clean growth across the country.

The realisation of these benefits is however, contingent on the right policy framework to unlock the investment, research and innovation required to deliver a smart, flexible, secure and low-carbon energy system.

The publication of the Scottish Government's Draft Energy Strategy earlier this year has signalled a welcome level of ambition from Holyrood. It includes a target proposed by Scottish Renewables that Scotland should source the equivalent of half of all the energy consumed in the country from renewables by 2030, as well as ambitious aspirations on the decarbonisation of transport, electricity and heat.

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As detailed in our response to the draft strategy¹, the challenge now is to turn this ambition into action – particularly around the challenging targets for low-carbon heat.

At a UK level, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy published a Green Paper on how to deliver industrial-scale economic growth for the UK. Our response yet again highlighted the ways in which Scotland's renewable energy sector can deliver many of the Green Paper's objectives, as well as recommending policy measures to secure these benefits².

In order to meet our climate and carbon targets, the amount of installed renewable capacity across the UK will need to double in the coming years³. Along with innovation in technologies, business models and our energy networks, ensuring a viable route to a viable market for renewable energy technologies will be critical if we are to meet our energy ambitions.

Should you wish to discuss any of the points raised in this letter in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing hsmith@scottishrenewables.com

Yours Sincerely,



Hannah Smith
Senior Policy Manager
Scottish Renewables

¹ <https://www.scottishrenewables.com/publications/consultation-response-energy-strategy/>

² <http://www.scottishrenewables.com/publications/consultation-response-beis-industrial-strategy-gre/>

³ <https://www.scottishrenewables.com/publications/renewed-ambitions-plan-renewable-energy-scotland/>