

## Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

**Petition Number:** PE1885

**Main Petitioner:** Karen Murphy

**Subject:** Make offering Community Shared Ownership mandatory for all windfarm development planning proposals

### Background

The Scottish Government's [Good Practice Principles for Shared Ownership of Onshore Renewable Energy Developments](#), first published in 2015 and updated in 2019, defines "shared ownership" as:

"...any structure which involves a community group as a financial partner over the lifetime of a renewable energy project."

The Scottish Government's [Onshore wind: policy statement](#) states that:

"Our ambition remains to ensure that, by 2020, at least half of newly consented renewable energy projects will have an element of shared ownership. The Scottish Government continues to encourage all developers to engage with local communities early in the process, and to offer – as standard, in any new or repowered development – the opportunity for shared ownership."

The Good Practice document goes on to highlight that:

"The Scottish Government would like to see shared ownership projects being considered, explored, and offered as standard on all new renewable energy projects including, repowering and extensions to existing projects."

The Scottish Government supports the development of community shared ownership schemes through the [Community and Renewable Energy Scheme \(CARES\)](#) and [Energy Investment Fund \(EIF\)](#).

Community Shared Ownership is separate from the consenting regimes used to authorise onshore renewable energy developments, which are described in

the SPICe briefing [Electricity Generating Stations: Planning and Approval](#). The ownership of a proposed onshore wind farm is not a material consideration in determining whether to approve or reject a proposed development. However, the net economic impact, including community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated businesses and supply chain opportunities are relevant matters and can be considered when reaching a decision on a proposed development.

## Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government does not require the developers of onshore wind farms to automatically offer the option of community shared ownership to an appropriate community body and has not consulted on such a proposal.

## Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not considered this issue.

## Key Organisations and relevant links

- **Scottish Government:** Responsible for Scottish onshore wind policy and land use planning policy/legislation.
- **Community Energy Scotland:** Charity working to support community bodies involved in, or looking into, renewable energy generation matters.
- **Scottish Renewables:** Representative body for the renewable energy sector in Scotland.

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