

Energy UK response to Department for Communities and Local Government Consultation on Fixing Our Broken Housing Market

2nd May 2017

About Energy UK

Energy UK is the trade association for the GB energy industry with a membership of over 90 suppliers, generators, and stakeholders with a business interest in the production and supply of electricity and gas for domestic and business consumers. Our membership encompasses the truly diverse nature of the UK's energy industry – from established FTSE 100 companies right through to new, growing suppliers and generators, which now make up over half of our membership.

Our members turn renewable energy sources as well as nuclear, gas and coal into electricity for over 26 million homes and every business in Britain. Over 619,000 people in every corner of the country rely on the sector for their jobs with many of our members providing lifelong employment as well as quality apprenticeships and training for those starting their careers. The energy industry adds £83bn to the British economy, equivalent to 5% of GDP, and pays over £6bn in tax annually to HMT.

Executive Summary

Energy UK welcomes the opportunity to submit a response to the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation on Fixing Our Broken Housing Market. As the trade association for the energy industry, Energy UK has an interest in responding to those questions which directly impact upon our membership. Energy UK's membership is responsible for the deployment of the majority of onshore wind across the UK and will continue to fund developments as long as they remains investible. We welcome any proposals which provide a clear and consistent approach to planning across the UK, reduce bureaucracy and deliver a greater emphasis on outcomes and delivery. Furthermore, we would encourage cognoscence of the work being done across Government and how any changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) may impact on them.

Response to Questions

Q34	Do you agree with the proposals to amend national policy to make clear that the reference to the three dimensions of sustainable development, together with the core planning principles and policies at paragraphs 18-219 of the National Planning Policy Framework, together constitute the Government's view of what sustainable development means for the planning system in England?
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We agree with these proposals. We would highlight that paragraph 19 of the NPPF states that "...significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth through the planning system".

Developments of new low carbon electricity generation will play a key role in supporting economic growth while meeting the challenges of a low carbon future. This should be given appropriate weight in the planning decisions for these developments.

Q35	Do you agree with the proposals to amend national policy to: a) Amend the list of climate change factors to be considered during plan-making, to include reference to rising temperatures?
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	b) Make clear that local planning policies should support measures for the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change?
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We agree with these proposals. The appropriate consideration of climate change factors and resilience to climate change will be essential to deliver robust infrastructure in future.

Q38	Do you agree that in incorporating the Written Ministerial Statement on wind energy development into paragraph 98 of the National Planning Policy Framework, no transition period should be included?
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We recommend that the Written Ministerial Statement on wind energy development is not incorporated into the NPPF at this time. This is because policy on onshore wind is under further review through several major policy initiatives, including:-

- The National Infrastructure Assessment
- The Industrial Strategy
- The Emissions Reduction Plan

Any or all of these may initiate further reviews on onshore wind and the planning arrangements. Industry also has some initiatives in progress that may influence future planning guidance on onshore wind.

It would be appropriate to hold back updating of the NPPF until these major reviews have been completed.

For more detail about the questions posed within the consultation document please refer to the responses submitted by our members. Should you have any questions regarding this consultation response then please do not hesitate to get in touch via the details below.

I can confirm that this response may be published on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website.

Yours sincerely,

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