

## **Meeting with David Mundell MP, Friday 15 April 2016**

**Present:** David Mundell, MP, Maureen Johnstone, Penny Coles, William Morgan and Alan Jones

**Purpose:** The meeting was arranged to update DM on the recent meeting with Angus MacNeill, Chair of the Energy Select Committee, as well as review progress on a number of issues.

### **Discussion and actions:**

1 There is a need to follow up on the meeting with Angus MacNeill to include other members of the select committee with a view to emphasising the lack of a satisfactory process for taking account of the public's interest relating to large energy infrastructure projects.

Action: DM to organise meeting with Conservative members of the Energy Select Committee and Alistair Carmichael, Liberal Democrat member of the Committee.

2 There is much to be gained by working with Scottish Power to seek a solution for its next proposal which meets the need for overcoming obsolescence issues, as well as providing a degree of uprating, while at the same time minimising the impact to the environment, the economy and to the people of the region.

Action: DM to arrange a meeting with Kevin Anderson, Chief Executive of Scottish Power, Scotland.

3 Ofgem and their regulatory role were discussed in relation to the recent meeting DGAP had with Kersti Berge, Partner and Head of Ofgem in Scotland. Concerns were expressed relating to the procedures that are in place. These appear to constrain residents of an affected area and other interested parties from examining any infrastructure scheme properly

Action: DM to pursue a meeting with Dermot Nolan, CEO of Ofgem/ Ofgem UK board, possibly co-ordinating this with Richard Arkless MP. DM is examining the role of Ofgem in Scotland.

4 The Department of Energy and Climate Control's role is one of setting policy and it is unclear where the division of responsibility lies in relation to ensuring that the process of proposing, planning and ensuring public concerns relating to economic impacts from infrastructure projects are taken account of. Alongside similar talks with Ofgem and members of the Energy Select Committee, DGAP wishes to discuss the many inadequacies and lack of timely democratic input in the present system for processing infrastructure projects with DECC and, if appropriate, the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Action: DM to initiate contact with his official responsible for energy in the Scottish Office as a possible route into DECC/ DCLG. This contact may also be able to advise on a suitable source of funding for DGAPs Research Proposal.

5 The role of National Grid has clearly become more important, but the reasons it has effectively caused the pausing of the project are clouded. DGAP wishes to see the reasoning and economic arguments behind NG's advice as well as the multiple routes it examined.

Action: This initially should probably be part of the discussion with the official above, with an aim of either seeing the report or meeting with National Grid. This could possibly be co-ordinated with Angus MacNeill MP, who has offered to put DGAP in touch with NG.

6 Security of Scotland's electricity supply is testing a lot of minds at present, particularly following the closure of Longannet coal-fired power station resulting in Scotland's de-rated capacity margin falling from +22% to -14%. In future, Scotland will be dependent on imports from England to satisfy maximum demand; the loss of which could see Scotland without electricity for several days. The Scottish Affairs Select Committee are currently taking evidence on this matter.

Action: DGAP to review Hansard to remain abreast of developments.

Chair : Alan Jones

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