

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release: Friday 30 August 2024

New information bolsters Aberdeenshire Wind Farm proposal

RES has submitted Additional Information to the Scottish Government this week, in response to statutory consultation feedback, in support of their Hill of Fare Wind Farm proposal near Banchory.

The 16-turbine scheme originally entered planning in November last year and is predicted to deliver a £150 million boost for the local economy. In response to constructive discussions with statutory consultees, RES has provided supporting evidence through the submission of Additional Information, such as ornithology and hydrology assessment work, initiating a further statutory consultation period.

Gavin Shirley, Senior Development Project Manager for RES, added: *“Hill of Fare Wind Farm is a carefully designed proposal which has been subject to detailed site assessment work and extensive public consultation. The Additional Information we have submitted responds thoroughly to key consultee feedback and further strengthens our planning application.”*

“Alongside other renewable energy technologies, onshore wind is the cheapest form of new electricity generation. It enhances our energy security and is quick to build. It also supports a rapidly growing supply chain with predictions that by 2027 more than four times more people could be employed in the industry to support the construction and installation of onshore wind.”

“If consented, Hill of Fare Wind Farm would support over 200 construction jobs, helping to make an important contribution to the Scottish and local economy.”

The scheme utilises modern turbines up to 200m tall, which are now typical for new onshore wind farms, and has been carefully designed to sit sensitively within the landscape. If consented, the 105.6MW wind farm would be capable of generating clean, low-cost renewable electricity for around 101,000 homes each year, reducing the equivalent of 69,000 tonnes of carbon emissions based on the grid-mix of fossil fuel, nuclear and renewable generation, and is calculated to achieve carbon payback within 2.8 years.

The proposal is currently scheduled to go before Aberdeenshire Council’s Infrastructure Services Committee later this year before Scottish Ministers make a final determination.

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Notes to editors:

About RES

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, biomass, hydro, green hydrogen, transmission, and distribution. An industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and plans to bring more than 22GW of new capacity online in the next five years. As a service provider, RES has the skills and experience in asset management, operations and maintenance (O&M), and spare parts - supporting 41GW of renewable assets across 1,300 sites. RES brings to the market a range of purposeful, practical technology-based products and digital solutions designed to maximise investment and deployment of renewable energy. RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy bringing together global experience, passion, and the innovation of its 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied. Visit: www.res-group.com

Submission of Additional Information

A statutory consultation period held by the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) commenced on **30 August 2024** to enable the public, as well as key consultees, to submit formal representations on the Additional Information. The closing date for comments is **2 October 2024**. For more information on how to comment on the proposal please visit www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk.

A copy of the Additional Information, together with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report which presents an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for public inspection in person, free of charge, at Banchory Library, Bridge Street, Banchory, AB31 5SU during the following opening hours: Monday (9am-5pm), Tuesday (9am-6pm), Thursday (9am-6pm) and Saturday (10am-2pm).

A copy of the Additional Information and all other application related information is also available on the project website at www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk as well as on the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit's (ECU's) planning portal at www.energyconsents.scot (reference ECU00004592).