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Convenor
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
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27 October 2025

Dear Edward,

I am writing to provide the Committee with further information about the policy I announced today to give communities priority access to renewable energy assets on public land that are due for repowering. The pilot, which will help strengthen the community asset transfer process, will provide a protected window for local groups to make an asset transfer request to lease FLS sites to extend the operational life of the windfarms.

Other changes will see community groups given:

- advance notification of upcoming lease opportunities, so they have time to prepare asset transfer requests before sites go to market
- dedicated guidance for repowering projects, including support on financing projects, evaluation and governance
- targeted support through the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), including help to develop proposals

Ten Forestry and Land Scotland onshore wind sites have been identified to pilot this approach. The FLS sites range across Scotland from Lanark to Wick, with indicative repowering dates from 2032 to 2048. There is one site in North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire, three sites in Highland, one in East Renfrewshire and Aberdeenshire and three in Argyll and Bute. Further details of the sites are now available on the FLS website.

These changes will help ensure that communities are supported to play an active role in shaping their energy future, not just hosting developments, but helping to lead them.

GILLIAN MARTIN

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