

> From the Scottish Green Liberal Democrats
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> We welcome the RSE's Inquiry into Issues for Scotland's Energy
Supply.
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> As an Associated Organisation of the Scottish Liberal Democrats we
are
> currently working to contribute to the party's policy on energy,
and
> more broadly on climate change.
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> We would much value being kept in touch with the RSE Inquiry.
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> However, at this opening stage, we would like to raise two broad
> concerns over Professor Irvine's statement and the remit of the
Inquiry.
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> (1) Prof Irvine states 'Energy is an emotive subject and too
important
> to become a party political issue'. While we too wish to see
objective
> science-based policy, we cannot agree with the second part of this
> statement. In a democracy decisions are rightly taken by
politicians on
> the basis of policies they have set before the electorate.
> It is therefore right that parties should develop policies on such
an
> important subject as energy, and inevitable and healthy that these
> policies will not all be identical.
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> (2) More fundamentally, we are concerned that the Inquiry's remit
is too
> narrow, in focusing on 'energy demands'.
> We would like to see the Inquiry's remit broadened, so as to set it
> firmly in the context of climate change, and to acknowledge that
that
> context may make it essential that demands are reduced.
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> We should be pleased to give evidence to the Inquiry at any time,
and to
> be kept in touch with its progress.
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> Yours sincerely
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> Denis Mollison
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> Convener, Scottish Green Liberal Democrats