



For immediate release 23/6/05

**Media Invitation**

## **Independent Inquiry into Issues for Scotland's Energy Supply to take evidence in Forres**

Members of the independent Committee set up by The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) to examine Issues for Scotland's Energy Supply, are to take evidence in Forres from a broad range of individuals and organisations connected with Energy in the Highlands and Islands. In this, the first of its information-gathering visits, the Committee will take evidence in private on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 June, 2005 based in the offices of Horizon Scotland, Forres. This Inquiry was established at the instigation of the Council of The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and launched on May 16, 2005.

### **Media Invitation**

A Media Question & Answer Session will be held at Horizon Scotland, the Enterprise Park, Forres on Monday 27 June 12:45-13.00 to which you are cordially invited.

**For Media Enquiries**, please contact:

Stuart Brown  
PR & Communications Manager,  
The Royal Society of Edinburgh,  
22-26 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PQ  
Tel : +44 (0)131 240 5000  
Mob: 077 11 710 249  
Fax +44 (0)131 240 5024;  
E: [sbrown@royalsoced.org.uk](mailto:sbrown@royalsoced.org.uk); [www.royalsoced.org.uk](http://www.royalsoced.org.uk)

### **The Independent RSE Committee's Programme**

(Please note that Consultation Questions are listed below):

#### **Monday 27 June**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 12:45 -13.00 | Media Q&A at Horizon Scotland, Forres  |
| 13.00 -13:40 | Lunch  |
| 13.40 -14.40 | Evidence-gathering with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mike Greaves and Dr Gareth Davies, Highland Council</li> <li>- Steven Hutcheon, Senior Development Manager, Moray, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise</li> </ul>   |
| 14.40 -15.40 | Evidence-gathering with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alec Walker, Findhorn Foundation - eco village</li> <li>- Sean Granville, NSIG - trade body for manufacturing interests in the North of Scotland</li> <li>- Stephen Tinsley, SDRC - sustainable development research centre</li> </ul> |

- 15.40 -16.40 Evidence-gathering with:
- Keith Maclean, Scottish and Southern Energy
  - David Williams, Fusion
- 19.00 Dinner with:
- Douglas Yule, Chief Executive of Moray, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise
  - Keith Maclean, Scottish and Southern Energy
  - Alison Magee, Convenor, Highland Council
  - Graeme McWilliam, The Combination of Rothes Distillers
  - James Ramsay, Baxters
  - Stephen Tinsley, sustainable development research centre
  - David Sigsworth, Scottish and Southern Energy

### **Tuesday 28 June**

- 09.30 -10.30 Evidence-gathering with:
- James Pendlebury, Forestry Commission
- 10.30 -11.30 Evidence-gathering with:
- David Gibb, Wavegen - wave energy company
  - George Goudsmit, AES Solar - solar energy business
  - Allan Macaskill, Talisman - oil/gas company also proposing to develop deep water offshore wind farm in Moray Firth
- 11.30 -12.30: Travel to Hydro power station to meet with Trevor Williams (Hydro Group Manager for the North of Scotland)
- 12.30 -13.30 Lunch with Trevor Williams
- 13.30- 15.00 Visit to Refurbished hydro plant
- 15:00 Depart

### **Inquiry Remit**

The remit of the group carrying out the work is to:

1. Review the issues for Scotland's energy supply and demand between the present and the year 2050, in the context of the likely UK, European and global energy environment.
2. Review the options for providing for Scotland's energy supply and demand, considering feasibility, availability, reliability, sustainability, efficiency and capacity of sources and infrastructure for delivery, taking into account:
  - (i) Economic issues of capital investment and distribution infrastructure, together with the impact of energy availability on commerce and industry.
  - (ii) Environmental concerns about global climate change and the impact on ecological and other natural resources, including waste management and landscape.
  - (iii) Social values and consequences of energy generation and distribution on employment opportunities, health, affordability and risk implications.
3. Provide an evidential base for energy policy in Scotland within the framework of strategies for transport, industrial, commercial and domestic needs, providing timeframes for action at both the UK and Scottish level, and raising public awareness and debate.

## Time-scale

The RSE expects to publish the Inquiry report by Summer 2006.

## Membership

Professor Maxwell Irvine will Chair the Committee and the full membership of the group is as follows:

Chairman: Professor **Maxwell Irvine**, FRSE, Professor of Physics, University of Manchester. Former Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Aberdeen; Former Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham

Secretary: Professor **Roger Crofts**, CBE, FRSE, Former CEO, Scottish Natural Heritage

Members: Professor **Andrew Bain**, OBE, FRSE, Economist, Former Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, University of Glasgow

Professor **Geoffrey Boulton** OBE, FRS, FRSE, Vice-Principal and Regius Professor of Geology and Mineralogy, University of Edinburgh

Professor **Allan Findlay**, FRSE, Professor of Geography, University of Dundee

Dr **Robert Hawley**, CBE, FRSE, FEng, Engineer, Former Chairman, Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council

Dr **Malcolm Kennedy**, CBE, FEng, FRSE, Chairman, National Energy Action

Professor **Andrew Miller**, CBE, FRSE, General Secretary of the RSE

Professor **Jeremy Peat**, FRSE, Former Group Chief Economist, the Royal Bank of Scotland

Professor **Janet Sprent** OBE, FRSE, Member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

Dr **George Watkins**, CBE, Former CEO, CONOCO UK, Former Chairman, Grampian Enterprise

## Oral & Written Evidence

The Committee invites organisations and individuals with relevant experience to give evidence.

## Consultation Questions

The following consultation questions are being put to stakeholders:

- How should Scotland provide for its energy needs over the next 5, 15, 30, 45 years, in the context of the likely UK, European and global energy environment?
- Should Scotland aim to be self-sufficient in energy in general, and in electricity in particular, despite trends towards interdependence within Europe?
- What are the possible implications and consequences for Scotland, and the UK, of becoming increasingly reliant on imported oil and gas for their energy needs?

### *Energy Supply*

- What is the feasibility, availability, reliability, sustainability, efficiency, capacity and risks of the different energy generation technologies?
- What are the likely trends, and uncertainties, in the availability and cost of energy sources over the next 20/45 years?
- What are the economic issues of capital investment in the supply and distribution of energy that need to be considered?
- What are the key issues surrounding the development of Scotland's bulk electricity transmission and local distribution systems?

### *Energy Demand*

- What will the impact of energy availability and price be on the demand for energy by commerce and industry in Scotland?
- What are the likely trends in the domestic demand for energy for space heating and other purposes? What would need to be done to achieve major savings? What are the investment costs?
- What are the likely trends in the demand for energy for transportation in Scotland? What is the likely time-scale and scope for substituting other power sources for fossil fuels? What are the likely investment costs?

### *Environmental and Social Issues*

- What are the environmental concerns that need to be taken into account, in terms of the impact on ecological and other natural resources, as well as waste management and impacts on the landscape?
- Can the objectives of environment improvement and economic growth both be met without a major increase in energy costs? What steps should be taken to enable an informed debate on the issue?
- What are the social values and consequences of energy generation and distribution on employment opportunities, health, and energy affordability?

Written submissions should be submitted to the Inquiry by 15 July 2005, preferably by e-mail to: [energy@royalsoced.org.uk](mailto:energy@royalsoced.org.uk) or in writing to:

Dr Marc Rands,  
The Royal Society of Edinburgh,  
22-26 George Street,  
Edinburgh  
EH2 2PQ

As with previous RSE Inquiries, all written evidence submissions will be posted on the Society's website following publication of the Committee's report (and will be made available in hard copy, upon request), unless requested to be kept in confidence.

### **Funding**

The Society is actively seeking funding from a broad range of individuals and private and charitable bodies to cover the cost of running the Inquiry. The RSE is most grateful that its Inquiry Committee Members are giving their time and expertise voluntarily. A full list of donors will be published with the Inquiry Report.

### **Notes for Editors:**

#### 1. *Independent Inquiries*

Other recent independent Inquiries undertaken by the RSE include:

Inquiry into the Future of the Scottish Fishing Industry - March 2004

Inquiry into Foot & Mouth Disease in Scotland - July 2002

The Scientific Issues Surrounding the Control of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) in Scotland – June 2002

Encouraging Resolution: Mediating Patient/Health Service Disputes in Scotland – June 2002.

Full details of these inquiries: [www.royalsoced.org.uk](http://www.royalsoced.org.uk)

#### 2. The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE)

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is Scotland's National Academy of Science & Letters. An independent body with charitable status, its multidisciplinary fellowship of 1400 men and women of international standing represents a knowledge resource for the people of Scotland. Committed to its Royal Charter of 1783 for the "advancement of learning and useful knowledge" the Society recognises

the important role it can play in today's Scotland. Working as part of the UK and within a global context, the RSE seeks to provide public benefit by:

- organising conferences and lectures for the specialist and for the general public on topics of national and international importance
- providing independent, expert advice to key decision-makers in Scotland
- awarding over £1.5 million annually to Scotland's top young academics to promote research and knowledge transfer in Scotland
- enabling leading Scottish-based researchers to collaborate with the best of their international counterparts
- inspiring school children in classrooms from the Borders to the Northern Isles and promoting their interest in science, society and culture
- producing academic journals of international standing

~ **Ends** ~