

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

26th October 2023

Dear Conthrent,

RE: ONSHORE WIND

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of onshore wind farms. I have read your comments with interest.

The United Kingdom was the first major economy to legislate for net-zero carbon emissions and since 2000, the UK has decarbonised faster than any other G7 country. Onshore wind is a key part of the Government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector and it will be integral to achieving net-zero by 2050.

It is for this reason that the Government has introduced changes to the planning system in England, so that planning permission for onshore wind will depend upon a project commanding local support and being able to satisfactorily address any impacts identified by the local community. These changes were consulted upon earlier this year.

Separately, the Government has said that it will seek views on developing local partnerships for supportive communities to enable those who would like to host new onshore wind to benefit, for example through lower energy bills.

The latest round of the Government's flagship renewables scheme, Contracts for Difference (CfD), has provided funding for 24 onshore wind projects, delivering almost 1.5GW of capacity. This builds on years of renewables growth under this Government. Just 7 percent of the UK's electricity came from renewables in 2010, yet in the first quarter of this year it reached 48 percent and this CfD auction will allow us to go further in powering more of Britain from Britain.

Furthermore, the 'Hydrogen Strategy' made clear that Scotland has a key role to play in the development of a UK hydrogen economy, with the potential to produce industrial-scale quantities of hydrogen from offshore and onshore wind resources, wave and tidal power, as well as with carbon capture usage and storage. The 'Energy Security Strategy' also indicates that there will be 12,000 jobs in the UK hydrogen industry by 2030 – 3,000 more than previously expected.

I will continue to monitor any future developments closely, and based on your argument in your email, I am sure you will welcome the steps I have outlined.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE