

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

www.windsofjustice.org.uk

Rural Communities, infrastructure and energy:

In order to secure a successful future for our communities we need to put a stop to the vested interest in wind and the negative impact it is having on the environment and health of those living close to windfarms. Developers are well schooled in the art of approaching a community – town or village-making promises that the wind development will cause no harm – whilst quietly buying/paying off selected homes. The paid-off residents have signed nondisclosure agreements so they cannot say one word against the projects when they discover negative impacts on themselves and their livestock.

Windfarms have an adverse impact on health

It cannot be repeated often enough that the British public are almost completely unaware of any of the reports on adverse effects either past or present. That noise and associated infrasound have a negative effect on human and animal health is now fully accepted. <http://www.windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/08/vibro-acoustic-disease/> The degree to which industrial wind turbines (IWT) are implicated has become obvious and continuous sleep deprivation can be form of torture <http://www.windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/09/environmental-noise-sleep-deprivation-torture-september-2014/> . Therefore the questions remaining unanswered as delivered both to the British Medical Association (BMA) <http://windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/08/analysis-of-open-letters-to-the-british-medical-association/> and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) (see below) are of increasing importance.

It is now imperative that independent research and studies are set up.

Peer reviewed papers and evidence can be accessed at: <http://windsofjustice.org.uk/category/health/>

The responsibility of the government is to ensure that policies do not harm the public physically, mentally, environmentally or financially. If any of these effects become apparent through reported events and expert warnings (accompanied by peer reviewed evidence), it is both a moral and legal responsibility to reverse damaging decisions.

In a recent letter to DECC we asked that:

Confirmation is produced that it is the legal position of the Department that no-one will suffer ill effects either from being forced to live in close proximity to wind turbines, or from effects of contamination of public water supplies incurred during any stage of development or function of industrial wind power developments.

1. An answer is provided in respect of why protective monitoring programmes should not be established e.g.
 - a. Would the DECC support conducting urgent multidisciplinary research involving full spectrum acoustic monitoring inside homes, and concurrent physiological monitoring of EEG, heart rate, blood pressure and sequential cortisol detection in those people who are reporting adverse health effects?
 - b. Would the DECC support turning wind turbines off at night if noise nuisance is proven to exist, so that people can sleep?
 2. Can DECC make provision for proof of claims made in respect of CO2 emissions-savings and benefits derived from wind power developments. (more can be read at <http://windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/08/open-letters-to-the-department-of-energy-and-climate-change/>)

Contamination of water supplies

<http://windsofjustice.org.uk/category/health/water-contamination/>

In Scotland SEPA is responsible for the general standard of the environment affecting our water supplies, but during the construction period of a windfarm the testing of water is delegated to the developer who has total control of the site. This raises huge concerns for our public and private water supplies. Please watch the video (it is 40 minutes long) the evidence has been corroborated:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQf0hLYXd7o> –essential viewing/listening

Recent Scottish and UK Government policy threatens our water supply through the industrialisation of water catchment areas, producing consequent water pollution. Dr Connor has produced the evidence demonstrating that this results in excessive levels of Trihalomethanes (THMs) in the public water supply. THMs are recognised by the World Health Organisation as possible carcinogens. In the water supply she uses as an example, there were in addition, massively increased levels of iron in the public water, which would have been an unrecognised hazard for patients with Haemochromatosis. The important thing is that when you see high levels of THMs and HAAs (a class of 5 chemicals called Halo Acetic Acids), you know you are getting high levels of other disinfection by-products that may be more toxic.

Graeme Pearson MSP has raised a question in the Scottish Parliament concerning Trihalomethanes:

<http://windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/08/169/>

The building of windfarms next to reservoirs or on water catchment areas is a major departure of Government policy. With absorption of THM's orally, through the skin and by inhalation, young infants may be at particular risk and this has the potential for serious future health problems and increased cancer rates.

Communities in Dumfries and Galloway request a Moratorium:

<http://windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/08/50-community-councils-from-across-dumfries-and-galloway-write-to-the-first-minister-demanding-a-moratorium-on-any-further-planning-consent-to-wind-farms/>

On Tuesday 25th March 2014, 50 community councils from across Dumfries and Galloway wrote to the First Minister demanding a moratorium on any further planning consents for wind farms. Dumfries and Galloway is not the first area in Scotland to request a moratorium.

Are the impacts on people, birds and animals just collateral damage? As already known, the RSPB say more birds will be killed by climate change than turbines, a statement also attracting disagreement. Are Government Ministers and departments and the BMA also now saying that as the health of more people may be affected by 'climate change' damage to public health is acceptable from industrial wind turbines?

ETSU was put together by the wind industry (its acoustic consultants) who were well aware (or ought to have been aware) of the Kelley research - which was presented at the global wind energy conference in California in 1987:

<http://waubrafoundation.org.au/resources/cox-unwin-sherwin-where-etsu-silent-wind-turbine-noise/>

The decision was clearly made in the UK not to measure those sound frequencies known to cause harm after the Kelley/NASA research. There is NO excuse or justification for this omission of infrasound and low frequency noise, especially when the NASA research in 1989 showed that with turbulent air flowing in the upwind, bladed turbines could be very good at generating infrasound and low frequency noise.

The UK's National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) is in breach of the Århus Convention

Pat Sword's from Ireland and Christine Metcalfe from Argyle have both taken complaints about the legality of the Renewable Energy programmes to the United Nations Compliance Committee. Their complaints have been ratified. ACCC/C/2012/68 and ACCC/C/2010/54. Both rulings need to be read together as the latter is dependent on the former:

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/compliance/C2010-54/Findings/ece_mp.pp_c.1_2012_12_eng.pdf

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/compliance/C2012-68/Findings/C68_EU_UK_findings_advance.unedited.version.pdf

The Compliance Committee did not rewrite their recommendations in ACCC/C/2010/54 a second time, they just expanded them in ACCC/C/2012/68, therefore it doesn't give the true picture unless you read both together.

To really understand why government policy on windfarms is unlawful, read and watch Pat Sword's presentation to the N. Ireland Assembly in Stormont:

<http://www.windsofjustice.org.uk/category/aarhus/>

THE march of wind turbines across the UK and Scotland can be challenged in the courts on the grounds that Scottish ministers have failed to protect people who live in their shadow as a result of the rulings by UNECE meeting of parties (Mops).

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop5/Documents/Category_I_documents/ECE_MP.PP_2014_L.24_ENG.pdf ‘

It was also found at this Meeting of parties in June 2014 that the UK is still non-compliant:

“By not taking sufficient measures to ensure that the costs for all court procedures subject to article 9 in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are not prohibitively expensive and, in particular, by not providing clear legally binding directions from the legislature or the judiciary to this effect, the Party concerned continues to fail to comply with article 9, paragraph 4, of the Convention;”

Following the judgement on 13th February 2014 in case C-530/11:

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=9ea7d2dc30d69d1888abd6a44ec28610b918cefe2fe1.e34KaxiLc3qMb40Rch0SaxuOaxj0?text=&docid=147843&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=312644>

<http://windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/08/affordable-access-to-justice-in-environmental-matters-and-protective-expenses-orders/>

A test case needs to be heard in a court of law as to whether the whole wind industry is unlawful in relying on planning policies which were themselves unlawful in that they breach the requirements of the Aarhus Convention.

<http://windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/08/complaints-to-unece-why-windfarms-may-be-illegal/>

The petition for use in a first case is still very valid and can be used in a new case.

It must always be remembered that Scotland is not a UN Member State, and the UNECE's remit is to look at the actions or omissions of Member States (called “Parties”) in respect of the Aarhus Convention compliance. We must therefore examine the UK's compliance with the Aarhus Convention: <http://windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/07/ratified-ruling-of-unece-aarhus-convention-compliance-committee/>

However, the Scottish Government, in the sense that the Scottish “Routemap 2020” and its update, and the Scottish Electricity Generating Policy Statement (both adopted in June 2013) both derive their authority *directly* from the UK's NREAP of 2010, which in turn derives its authority from the Renewables Directive 2009/28/EC - and as we know the Committee's ruling finds that the UK's NREAP is non-compliant.

Co2 savings claims: The reason for developing renewable energy is its carbon emission savings. It may come as a shock to the public that CO2 savings from wind energy are negligible or non-existent. http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/empirical_measurement_of_fossil
Will windfarms provide the necessary security to Scotland's energy supply? As more and more wind energy is added to the national grid will it help to keep the lights on?

If only politicians would allow engineers to be responsible for our energy policy:

IESIS promotes the principle that, before proceeding with any policy for the electricity system, comprehensive independent assessments should be carried out. This would significantly reduce the risk of unsatisfactory outcomes:

<http://www.iesisenergy.org/IESIS-effect-of-wind.pdf>

This presentation explains the serious difficulties involved in introducing wind generation to the system. For more information about the IESIS stance on how policy for the electricity system should be formulated see: www.iesisenergy.org

Jack Pontin's submission and the Border's Network Conservation Group both examine this question: <http://windsofjustice.org.uk/2014/08/are-there-risks-to-energy-security-in-scotland-under-present-energy-policy/>.

As does Stuart Young : Author of Analysis of UK Wind Power Generation: report: <http://www.jmt.org/stuart-young-report.asp> along with other publications including "Overview of the Scottish Government's First Annual UPDATE of its 2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy" and "Gas, oil and coal prices were subsidised by £3.63bn in 2010" Or were they?"

The Audit Commission recently announced (June 2014), that the government's spending watchdog reported that £17 billion has been spent on subsidies for recent large windfarm and biomass projects; the contracts for these last for 25 years. All of us pay for this gross extravagance through our electricity bills, but bloated subsidies characterise the whole renewable industry. This report followed the day after the electricity market was referred to the competition authorities.

The think tank Aurora Energy Research reported that far from fossil fuel costs rising to meet those of windfarms as our political leaders assumed, those for gas and coal are declining fast and will continue to do so for many decades. Countries that have not gone down the ideological route of renewables and the crippling legislation that accompanies them will benefit from much cheaper electricity, greatly increased economic activity in a competitive world and burgeoning wealth. Our financial decline is consequently guaranteed.

The wind industry is necessarily one of the most corrupt enterprises on earth because it depends for its entire existence on government favours, backhanders, dishonest environmental impact assessments and on regulators turning a blind eye to the known health problems caused by wind turbine noise. Without crony capitalism, the wind industry simply would not exist.

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