

By email to: [representations@gov.scot](mailto:representations@gov.scot)

Energy Consents Unit  
The Scottish Government  
4th Floor  
5 Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

10 June 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**Achany Extension Wind Farm – Additional Information.**

**ECU reference: ECU00001930**

**Introduction**

1. SSE Renewables has provided Additional Information for its application for S.36 consent for Achany Extension wind farm, by Lairg. This removes two turbines (10 and 20) from the application, which is now for 18 turbines of 149.9m blade-tip height. The locations of the 18 turbines remain as previously. All would be within the Reay-Cassley Wild Land Area.
2. The changes do not address Mountaineering Scotland's concerns with the proposed development, and we maintain our objection to the proposed wind farm on grounds of visual impact.
3. The grounds for Mountaineering Scotland's objection were set out in our response of 20 August 2021. That response remains unchanged for this slightly reduced scheme.

**Material considerations: visual impact**

4. We have reviewed the visualisations provided for hill viewpoints and compared them with the visualisations in the original 20-turbine application.
5. Mountaineering Scotland's original assessment repeatedly found that the turbines upon the elevated ground around Carn nam Bo Maola and to its north had a substantial visual impact. That is, turbines 1-10. The removal of turbine 10 alone has a negligible effect on the visual impact from a mountaineering perspective.
6. Mountaineering Scotland also noted that the layout had a straggling appearance, exacerbated by the gap between the existing Achany/Rosehall cluster and the proposed extension. The removal of Turbine 20 increases that gap from under 2km to c.2.3km. There is then a further gap of around 1km between the intermediate group of three turbines (17-19) and the main body of the proposed

development. The revised development does nothing to reduce the visual straggle. It might even worsen it.

7. The visual assessment in the Additional Information suggests that the removal of Turbines 10 and 20 would make no substantive difference to the visual effects of the proposed development. While mountaineering Scotland differs from the applicant in respect of the strength and reach of adverse visual impacts, it agrees with the conclusion that the removal of these two turbines would make a negligible difference.

### **Conclusion**

8. Mountaineering Scotland continues to **object** to the proposed Achany Extension wind farm on grounds of visual impact and the consequences therefrom.

Yours sincerely



**Stuart Younie**

**CEO, Mountaineering Scotland**

