

By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

Mr Cameron Moyes
Case Manager
Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
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23 January 2025

Dear Mr Moyes

Invercassley Wind Farm, near Lairg, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00006064

Background and Context

1. Fred Olsen Renewables has submitted a Scoping Report for a wind farm of 22 turbines of 230m BTH on the north side of Strathoykel, west of Lairg.
2. Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with 16,000 members and is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains. We represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering, and provide training and information to mountain users for safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
3. Invercassley would be the westernmost of an emerging cluster of proposals, expanding the Lairg-Shin wind farm landscape westwards and lies wholly within a limb of Wild Land Area 34: Reay-Cassley. The immediate windfarm landscape context is the 9-turbine Allt an Tuir scoping adjacent to the east, the 10-turbine Coille Beith scoping on the south side of Strath Oykel, and the consented 18-turbine Achany Extension to the east across Glen Cassley. Consent was refused in 2018 for Caplich wind farm immediately west of Invercassley.

Assessment

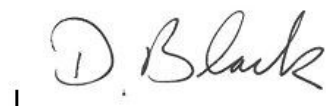
4. Mountaineering Scotland's concern at this stage is ensuring that the proposed viewpoints will allow a comprehensive assessment of the proposed development from a mountaineering/hillwalking perspective should an application be made, specifically potential views of the proposed development from the summits of Munros, Corbetts and other upland locations popular with hillwalkers and wild campers.
5. We endorse the three proposed 'hill walker' viewpoints: 15-17. We note the inclusion of the almost unknown and low altitude hill of Cnoc Bad a Choille (340m, 7km distant) as representative of

'recreational receptors', while omitting Carn a' Choin Deirg (701m, 12 km distant and listed as a Graham) despite it being the more popular hill summit in the same quadrant of view.

6. In addition, the scoping report omits as a viewpoint Seana Bhraigh c.20km distant, one of the most remote Munros in Scotland to reach from the road. Since Ben Klibreck, c.28km distant, is included for view of the proposal from the north, it would seem appropriate to include the view of the proposal from the south, of a Munro that is known for its remoteness from the built environment and unlike Ben Klibreck, does not have a windfarm at its foot.

7. We suggest the inclusion of Carn a' Choin Deirg as a viewpoint instead of Cnoc Bad a Choille as representative of recreational receptors, and also include Seana Bhraigh, the closest Munro after Ben More Assynt and Conival.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Davie Black
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