



Mr Andrew Mackay
Chair of Lairg Community Council
Keepers Cottage
Dalnessie
Lairg
IV27 4DJ

7th September 2018

Dear Mr Mackay,

Strath Tirry Wind Farm – Community Benefit Fund

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on 25th July as Chair of Lairg and District Community Council (LDCC), alongside your colleagues from the Lairg and District Community Initiative (LDCI). We found the meeting to be very productive and we hope that you did also.

As you are aware, we previously submitted a scoping application in April 2015, for five turbines with a tip height of up to 126.5m. However, following the UK Government removal of support for onshore wind, we took some time to reconsider the commercial viability of our application.

Consequently, we made the decision to re-submit scoping for a revised proposal of four turbines with a tip height of up to 135m. The scheme will provide an installed capacity of between 10MW and 16MW depending on the model of turbine selected at the procurement stage, should it receive planning permission. We anticipate submitting a planning application in the first half of 2019.

During our meeting, it was confirmed by the LDCC and the LCDI that the Community Benefit Fund should be provided at £5k per MW of installed capacity. It was also confirmed that this should only benefit the Lairg and District community directly and would not be shared with the surrounding community council areas. Based on the minimum capacity of the project, this would produce £50,000 minimum per annum, or approximately £1.25 million for the operational life of the wind farm. This will be index linked and payable each year that the wind farm is operational.

With regards to how the Community Benefit Fund should be managed, we would appreciate if you could advise us whether you wish the funds to be managed by way of a local panel, as is the case with other local wind farms in the area, or made available directly to the Lairg and District Community Initiatives. We are comfortable with either choice subject to further discussion, however we would like to ensure that the monies are used for the benefit of all members of the community in Lairg and District without precedence being given to one particular area.

My advisor, Mark Cummings, and landowner Paul Adkins will be back in Lairg on Thursday 13th September, to facilitate a site visit for local residents to nearby Lairg, Achany and Rosehall wind farms. The arrangements of this are as follows:

Thursday 13th September 2018

10:00am - Collect residents from Blairbuie

10:15am - Collect members of Lairg and District Community Initiatives

10:30am - 12:30pm - Visit Lairg, Achany and Rosehall wind farms

1:00pm - Return to Blairbuie

If you are agreeable, we would like to arrange a follow up meeting with yourself to discuss this proposal. If you could advise your availability, it would be much appreciated.

We remain grateful for your open approach to consultation. If you have any queries about any aspect of the project, please feel free to contact Iona Lamont on 0141 212 7222 or iona.lamont@invictapa.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Melvyn Mckeown
Technical Manager
REG Windpower