



Department for
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& Net Zero

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Gillian Martin MSP

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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a
Chynllunio



Llywodraeth Cymru
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Fintan Slye, Director of NESO
National Energy System Operator NESO
Faraday House
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill
Warwick, CV34 6DA

22nd October 2024

Dear Fintan,

We, the energy ministers of Scotland, Wales and the United Kingdom, are commissioning you today to produce the first ever spatial plan for energy across Great Britain. This Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) will be a comprehensive blueprint for the energy system, land and sea, across Great Britain.

A more strategic approach to energy infrastructure planning will speed up the transition away from fossil fuels and towards homegrown clean energy. The SSEP will be instrumental in achieving clean power and net zero. We require a plan that works for all of Great Britain, contributing towards a more sustainable and secure energy system, as well as boosting economic opportunity and domestic performance.

This first iteration of the SSEP will focus on electricity generation and storage, including hydrogen assets. In the future, the SSEP will be updated regularly and could include other types of energy, like natural gas.

Our commission to you sets out the key expectations for producing the first iteration of the SSEP:

- NESO will set up a governance structure as detailed in the commission. While developing the SSEP, NESO should regularly consult with the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments.
- NESO will develop a methodology for the SSEP, which will set out more detail on how the SSEP will be produced, by the end of 2024. This will be consulted on.
- NESO will develop several “pathway options” – different options for how the energy system could look in the future – which will be presented to energy ministers from the Welsh, Scottish and UK governments. Our collective views along with any disagreements at this stage will be made available to the UK Energy Secretary alongside this advice. The UK Energy Secretary will then choose one pathway option to take forward to public consultation and detailed environmental assessments.

The SSEP will be used to help plan the future of the energy system. Its outputs will directly feed into, and must be published in time for, the Centralised Strategic Network Plan. We attach the full SSEP commission. The plan that you produce will help accelerate and optimise our transition to clean, affordable and secure energy across Great Britain. We look forward to receiving the outputs of this groundbreaking project.

Yours sincerely,




Gillian Martin MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and
Energy

Scottish Government



Michael Shanks MP
Minister for Energy

UK Government



Rebecca Evans MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy,
Energy and Planning

Welsh Government