

The Energy Security Strategy



Matthew Henderson

Background

- Previous policy documents/announcements:
 - Energy White Paper – December 2020;
 - Consultation on review of the Energy NPS – September 2021; and
 - Net Zero Strategy – October 2021.
- External factors:
 - dependency on foreign sources of energy;
 - increasing global energy costs;
 - war in Ukraine.

Existing policy

- National Planning Policy Framework:
 - para. 20 – strategic policies – pattern, scale, design – sufficient provision – energy;
 - para. 152 - support for renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure;
 - supporting policy in paras. 155 – 158;
 - para. 158 – specific support for renewable and low carbon development – need assumed – imperative to approve (except new onshore wind turbines).

- National Policy Statements:
 - EN1 – overarching NPS for energy;
 - EN2 – fossil fuel electricity generation;
 - EN3 – renewable electricity generation (on and off shore);
 - EN4 – gas and oil infrastructure and pipelines;
 - EN5 – electricity transmission and distribution;
 - EN6 – nuclear.

Energy efficiency

- Reiteration of previous policy: e.g. Heat and Buildings Strategy; Homes Upgrade Grant; Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- Specific financial measures:
 - zero rating VAT for next 5 years on installation of energy saving materials;
 - £450 Boiler Upgrade Scheme.
- Energy advice service on GOV.UK
- “Frameworks”:
 - energy performance standards – May 2022;
 - reviewing “practical planning barriers” – glazing, listed buildings, conservation areas – protection of local amenity and heritage – by end 2022.

Oil and Gas

- Full utilisation of North Sea reserve – “foundation of our energy security”
 - North Sea Transition Authority – launch licensing round in autumn 2022;
 - Gas and Oil New Project Regulatory Accelerators – rapid development;
 - electrification of offshore production;
 - 4 CCUS clusters by 2030;
 - starting point for carbon capture – ‘industrial SuperPlaces’
 - British Geographical Survey on shale gas
- However - reduced gas consumption by 40% by 2030
- “no contradiction between our commitment to net zero and our commitment to a strong and evolving North Sea industry”

Wind

- Offshore wind –
 - Increase pace of deployment by 25% - up to 50GW by 2030 including up to 5GW of floating wind;
 - Reduced consenting time – four years down to one year;
 - Offshore Wind Acceleration Task Force;
 - Strengthening Renewable NPS – energy security & net zero;
 - “strategic compensation environmental measures” – reviewing HRA – “reducing reams of paperwork”
 - new Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package.
- Onshore wind –
 - Focus on England – “prioritise putting local communities in control” – no wholesale changes – consultation on local partnerships;
 - Support for repowering.

Nuclear

- AMBITIOUS GROWTH – 24GW by 2050 – triple existing capacity – up to 25% of projected electricity demand.
- Focus on delivery of new projects:
 - Future Nuclear Enabling Fund (repackaged announcement);
 - Great British Nuclear Vehicle;
 - potential avenues for government funding;
- Development of a nuclear siting strategy for the long term (in addition (?) to 8 current designated nuclear sites).

Solar and Other Technologies

- Ground mounted solar –
 - consultation on strengthening policy in favour of development “on non protected land;
 - Including:
 - community participation;
 - effective use of PDL; and
 - co-location.
- Network storage and flexibility – accelerating connection of network infrastructure – half tie to build infrastructure.
- Hydrogen – focus on green hydrogen (electrolysis) – value for flexibility and as a storage solution – up to 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

Thank you for listening

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London

180 Fleet Street
London, EC4A 2HG
+44 (0)20 7430 1221

Birmingham

Cornwall Buildings
45 Newhall Street
Birmingham, B3 3QR
+44 (0)121 752 0800

Contact

✉ clerks@landmarkchambers.co.uk
🌐 www.landmarkchambers.co.uk

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