

**Onshore electricity generation: consultation on increasing the threshold for applications under the Electricity Act**

Response from Orkney Islands Council

April 2026

Question 1) Should there be a single threshold applicable to all technologies?

The Council does not have a view on this matter.

Question 2) What threshold should apply for applications for electricity generation to be determined by planning authorities?

a) 50MW b) 100MW c) 150MW

Provided that the current arrangements for consulting with local authorities for relevant applications, and fee sharing arrangements are retained; 50MW should be retained as the threshold.

This is due to the fact that the Council would not have the specialist expertise and capacity which is available within the Scottish Government consents unit; and would therefore be unlikely to be able to handle the scale of activity required for the processing and governance of such larger scale proposals without having critical impact on baseline workload.

Question 3) Any change to the threshold would apply only to new applications. Do you have any comments on transitional arrangements?

Given our answer to question 2, we do not have a view on this question

Question 4) Do you have any other comments to add? Please add any comment in support of your answer.

As noted in our answer to question 2; our response to this consultation is based on the risk of impact on capacity to deliver planning functions within a small island authority. The present consultation-based approach is therefore considered to represent the most efficient and realistic approach to continue.

Question 5) Do you have any comments on the partial and draft impact assessments undertaken?

The Council does not have a view on this matter.

Question 6) Do you have any suggestions for additional sources of information on the potential impacts of the proposals that could help inform our final assessments?

The Council does not have a view on this matter.