



Mr. Stephen Hamilton,
PPS 18 Renewable Energy Consultation
Planning and Environmental Policy Group
Department of the Environment
12th Floor River House
48 High Street
BELFAST BT1 2AW

By Email & Post: planning.policy@doeni.gov.uk

5th June 2008

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

BWEA and IWEA comments on Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes – Draft Supplementary Guidance to accompany Planning Policy Statement 18

BWEA and IWEA provide this response as a joint submission on behalf of the Northern Irish wind energy industry. BWEA was established in 1978 and is the representative body for companies active in the UK wind, wave and tidal energy market. Its membership has grown rapidly over recent years and now stands at over 380 companies, representing 98.8% of all grid-connected wind energy now installed in the UK. IWEA is the national association for the wind industry in Ireland and has over 300 members.

Northern Ireland has a target of producing 12% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2012 and 40% electricity consumption by 2025. As the most advanced technology, it is recognised that the largest share of these targets will need to come from onshore wind energy. Meeting these targets will generate private investment of over £600m in wind generation in Northern Ireland. Of this, around £150m will be retained by local NI businesses. This will provide a significant boost to local industry and will create several thousand jobs in high value industries. It is therefore essential that projects can progress through the planning system and contribute much needed renewable energy capacity. The current draft guidelines present a serious obstacle to this investment and job creation and jeopardise Northern Ireland's ability to meet its renewable energy targets.

In representing the wind industry, BWEA and IWEA are in a unique position to comment on the circumstances which affect the future growth and development of the sector. We would be pleased to clarify any issues raised and offer any further information which may be required.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft SPG. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris' followed by a stylized surname.

Chris Tomlinson
Director of Programme Strategy
BWEA

A handwritten signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'Michael Walsh'.

Michael Walsh
CEO
IWEA