

# The Royal Society of Edinburgh

## Operations Notice

### 19/6/06 Media Launch ~ Report of The Royal Society of Edinburgh's Independent Inquiry into Energy Issues for Scotland

Monday 19 June 2006; 10.30am at The Royal Society of Edinburgh 22  
George Street, Edinburgh

You are invited to the Media Launch of the report of The Royal Society of Edinburgh's major, independent Inquiry into Energy Issues for Scotland - Monday 19 June 2006 at 10.30am. The Inquiry focuses on the period from the present day to the year 2050 and was established at the instigation of the Council of The Royal Society of Edinburgh. The Inquiry began on May 16, 2005.

Further info is available below and on the RSE website:

#### **Remit:**

1.

Review the issues for Scotland's energy supply and demand between the present and the year 2050, in the context of the likely UK, European and global energy environment.

2.

Review the options for providing for Scotland's energy supply and demand, considering feasibility, availability, reliability, sustainability, efficiency and capacity of sources and infrastructure for delivery, taking into account:

(i)

Economic issues of capital investment and distribution infrastructure, together with the impact of energy availability on commerce and industry.

(ii)

Environmental concerns about global climate change and the impact on ecological and other natural resources, including waste management and landscape.

(iii)

Social values and consequences of energy generation and distribution on employment opportunities, health, affordability and risk implications.

3.

Provide an evidential base for energy policy in Scotland within the framework of strategies for transport, industrial, commercial and domestic needs, providing timeframes for action at both the UK and Scottish level, and raising public awareness and debate.

The Inquiry has consulted widely, taking oral and written evidence. Written evidence submitted to the independent committee can be seen at: <http://www.royalsoced.org.uk/enquiries/energy/evidence/index.htm> The following consultation questions were put to individuals and organisations:

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How should Scotland provide for its energy needs over the next 5, 15, 30, 45 years, in the context of the likely UK, European and global energy environment?

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Should Scotland aim to be self-sufficient in energy in general, and in electricity in particular, despite trends towards interdependence within Europe?

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What are the possible implications and consequences for Scotland, and the UK, of becoming increasingly reliant on imported oil and gas for their energy needs?

#### *Energy Supply*

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What is the feasibility, availability, reliability, sustainability, efficiency, capacity and risks of the different energy generation technologies?

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What are the likely trends, and uncertainties, in the availability and cost of energy sources over the next 20/45 years?

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What are the economic issues of capital investment in the supply and distribution of energy that need to be considered?

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What are the key issues surrounding the development of Scotland's bulk electricity transmission and local distribution systems?

#### *Energy Demand*

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What will the impact of energy availability and price be on the demand for energy by commerce and industry in Scotland?

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What are the likely trends in the domestic demand for energy for space heating and other purposes? What would need to be done to achieve major savings? What are the investment costs?

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What are the likely trends in the demand for energy for transportation in Scotland? What is the likely time-scale and scope for substituting other power sources for fossil fuels? What are the likely investment costs?

### *Environmental and Social Issues*

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What are the environmental concerns that need to be taken into account, in terms of the impact on ecological and other natural resources, as well as waste management and impacts on the landscape?

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Can the objectives of environment improvement and economic growth both be met without a major increase in energy costs? What steps should be taken to enable an informed debate on the issue?

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What are the social values and consequences of energy generation and distribution on employment opportunities, health, and energy affordability?

### **Inquiry Committee Members**

Professor Maxwell Irvine (Chairman)  
Professor Geoffrey Boulton  
Professor Roger Crofts (Secretary)  
Dr Robert Hawley  
Dr Malcolm Kennedy  
Professor Andrew Miller (Vice-Chairman)  
Professor Janet Sprent  
Professor Joyce Tait  
Dr George Watkins

### ***Notes for Editors:***

#### *1. Independent Inquiries*

Other recent independent Inquiries undertaken by the RSE include:  
Inquiry into the Future of the Scottish Fishing Industry - March 2004  
Inquiry into Foot & Mouth Disease in Scotland - July 2002  
The Scientific Issues Surrounding the Control of Infectious Salmon Anaemia

(ISA) in Scotland – June 2002  
Encouraging Resolution: Mediating Patient/Health Service Disputes in  
Scotland – June 2002.

Full details of these inquiries:

[www.royalsoced.org.uk](http://www.royalsoced.org.uk)

## *2. The Royal Society of Edinburgh*

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is an educational charity, registered in Scotland. Independent and non-party-political, we are working to provide public benefit throughout Scotland and by means of a growing international programme. The RSE has a peer-elected, multidisciplinary Fellowship of 1400 men and women who are experts within their fields. We seek to provide public benefit in today's Scotland by:

- ◆ Organising lectures, debates and conferences on topical issues of lasting importance
- ◆ Conducting independent inquiries on matters of national and international importance
- ◆ Providing educational activities for primary and secondary school students throughout Scotland
- ◆ Distributing over £1.7 million to top researchers and entrepreneurs working in Scotland
- ◆ Showcasing the best of Scotland's research and development capabilities to the rest of the World
- ◆ Facilitating Scotland's international collaboration in research and enterprise
- ◆ Awarding prizes and medals

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