

**FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**  
Mike Brennan



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To: William Humphrey, MBE  
Chairperson,  
Public Accounts Committee  
NI Assembly

9 February 2021

Dear Mr Humphrey

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC) EVIDENCE SESSION**

Thank you for your 5<sup>th</sup> February note inviting me and colleagues to a PAC session on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to discuss the NIAO report on *Generating Electricity from Renewable Energy*.

As you know we have just recently received the KPMG report *An Economic Review of Small Scale Wind* which is directly relevant to the NIAO report findings. We have been liaising with the NIAO and Utility Regulator colleagues on that research but unfortunately it contains a considerable amount of new, complex and potentially important data and it will take some months to complete due diligence on its verification.

I have discussed this aspect with the C&AG and he views his NIAO report as part of a process in reporting on renewable energy policy. Therefore at the 18<sup>th</sup> March evidence session it is likely that witnesses will cross-reference to evidence from KPMG and other sources that have not, as yet, been agreed with NIAO colleagues and it will therefore be difficult to provide definitive answers to some questions on the day.

However, I look forward to discussing this issue further with you and your Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> March and will be as helpful as we can. I would also like to confirm as previously indicated, that both myself and other supporting officials will attend remotely.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Brennan', written in a cursive style.

Mike Brennan  
**PERMANENT SECRETARY**

Copy List:

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