Committee for the Economy Call for Evidence on the Renewable Electricity Generation Bill

Response from The Crown Estate

21st October 2026

The Crown Estate

Who we are

The Crown Estate is a purpose-driven and unique business with a diverse portfolio. We manage the seabed and around half the foreshore in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, playing a fundamental role in the sustainable development of these important national assets and using data and evidence to facilitate co-location and greater spatial coordination between activities. Our wider portfolio includes one of the largest rural holdings in the country and an estate across Regent Street and St James's in London.

Established by an Act of Parliament, The Crown Estate works to create social, environmental and financial value, both now and for the future, for its customers, partners and the public. We return 100% of our net revenue profit for the benefit of the public, contributing £5 billion to the public purse over the last ten years.

Our purpose

As a business, we actively deliver against our purpose, which is to create lasting and shared prosperity for the public. We believe we are well placed to create financial, environmental and social value holistically today and for future generations, by drawing upon our unique attributes to address long-term trends and national needs. Combining our independence and scale of ownership with our ability to convene multiple stakeholders and take a long-term view with patient financial capital, we can play a significant role in creating and accelerating new opportunities – including for the growth of renewable energy. We drive our purposeful activity through four strategic priorities:

- Enabling the UK's transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient and energy-secure future
- Protecting, restoring, and connecting people with nature, across land, cities and sea
- Contributing to inclusive growth that unlocks potential and enabling communities to thrive through improved access to new homes, jobs and infrastructure
- Responsibly generating financial returns and value for people in the UK

Our Response

Introduction

The Crown Estate welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Committee for the Economy's Call for Evidence on the Renewable Electricity Generation Bill.

We recognise the Bill as an important step in establishing the framework for future renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland. We have been actively involved in the development of the Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan (OREAP) and continue to work closely with the Department for the Economy and wider stakeholders on matters relating to renewable energy development in Northern Ireland.

General Observations on the Bill

The Crown Estate welcomes the introduction of the Renewable Electricity Generation Bill and supports the objective of establishing a long-term framework capable of supporting renewable electricity generation and providing certainty for market participants.

We note that the Bill is enabling legislation and provides the statutory powers necessary to establish a Renewable Electricity Price Guarantee scheme based on Contracts for Difference. The overall architecture appears closely aligned with established CfD models already familiar to investors, lenders and developers through deployment in other jurisdictions. The use of a framework based on established Contracts for Difference arrangements should provide a familiar basis for future scheme development, while allowing Northern Ireland to develop arrangements that reflect its own policy objectives and market context.

We also note that the Bill provides flexibility for detailed policy choices relating to scheme operation, eligibility, allocation and implementation to be developed through future regulations. As these provisions are developed, we encourage the Department to ensure that the framework remains sufficiently flexible to accommodate a diverse range of renewable electricity generation technologies with differing maturity levels, project scales and cost characteristics. This will help avoid unintended barriers to deployment and support future innovation.

Similarly, any community benefit requirements should allow for approaches that are appropriate to the technology and project type. Whilst proximity-based arrangements may be suitable for some developments, alternative models may be more appropriate for offshore technologies, where benefits may be realised through regional industrial growth, supply chain development, skills and employment opportunities, alongside direct community benefit.

Given the enabling nature of the legislation, we do not have specific observations on individual provisions at this stage and recognise that many detailed design considerations will be developed through future policy and consultation processes.

Future Development and Continued Engagement

The Crown Estate recognises that the Bill represents one component of a broader policy, regulatory and delivery framework required to support renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland.

While many of the detailed mechanisms governing scheme operation will be determined through future regulations, we believe that establishing a clear and durable framework is an important step towards providing certainty for market participants and supporting Northern Ireland's renewable energy ambitions.

We look forward to continuing to work constructively with the Department for the Economy, OREAP partners and wider stakeholders as these arrangements develop, supporting the evidence, planning and coordination needed to realise future opportunities across a range of renewable technologies, including offshore wind and tidal stream generation.

Concluding remarks

We trust that you will find our comments on the consultation constructive. We would be willing to engage further and provide additional information on any of the points we have raised.

All of this response may be put into the public domain and there is no part of it that should be treated as confidential.

