

Dunmore
Westside
Dunnet
THURSO
Caithness
KW14 8YD

17th October 2012

Mr Fergus Ewing MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Holyrood
EDINBURGH.

DELIVERED BY HAND AND BY POST

Dear Mr Ewing

One year ago in Inverness you were good enough to meet with Mrs Lyndsey Ward and me. You listened carefully, and indeed took pains to ensure that you fully understood what we had to say to you. In particular, we discussed my illustration of how the full cost of the Renewables Obligation is ultimately borne by the 66 million people of the United Kingdom, and that simply to refer to the direct cost to consumers through domestic electricity bills is disingenuous and misleading.

Mrs Ward and I were encouraged that the new Minister was aware of and understood this and other matters we raised. However, it soon after became apparent that despite your intellectual grasp of these matters, you were bent on pursuing the energy dictat of Mr Salmond, regardless of its flawed logic and basis on a tissue of lies.

When you announced the support for Renewables on 13th September you said, or allowed yourself to be quoted as saying, "*Estimates suggest that the RO currently costs domestic consumers between £15-£20 a year, rising to £50 per year by 2017.*"

It is inconceivable in your position as Minister that you are unaware that the cost of the Renewables Obligations alone in 2011/2012 is estimated by DECC to be £1.764 billion*.

That is £26.73 per person (£1.764bn÷66m people). If only 40% of that cost is borne directly through domestic electricity bills and a household is taken as 2.4 persons, then the total RO cost per household is £64.15. (£25.66 for domestic electricity and £38.49 paid through the electricity cost element of all goods and services purchased.)

You made no reference to the massive cost of transmission infrastructure needed to meet the SNP's "ambitious targets". It is inconceivable that you do not know that the cost of the Beauly to Denny transmission reinforcement (a very small part of the transmission expansion required) if borne by the people of Scotland alone, will be in the order of £114 per person (£600m÷5.25m people).

It/

17th October 2012

Mr Fergus Ewing MSP

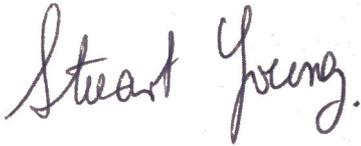
It should be inconceivable, but it clearly is not, that a Minister of State should rely on weasel words such as "*Estimates suggest*" to misinform the people of Scotland. It is your job to **know** the facts and it is your **duty** to tell the **truth** to the people of Scotland.

You come from a family (whether I agree with its views or not) with a long and honourable tradition of service to Scotland and its people. In one short year, by your adherence to the dominion of Mr Salmond's lunatic energy policy, you have done more harm to Scotland and its people than all the good previously achieved by your family.

Mr Ewing, unless you have the courage to embrace the truth and stand up for Scotland against Mr Salmond, the damage caused through his energy obsession to the people, the economy, and the land and seascapes of Scotland will be the lasting legacy of the Ewing dynasty.

Someone has to be the first to break rank and openly challenge Mr Salmond's ruinous Renewable Energy aspirations for Scotland. Let it be you and the nation will be forever grateful.

Yours sincerely



As I am presently abroad, please respond through Mrs Lyndsey Ward.

* Extracted from REF Publication

"The Probable Cost of UK Renewable Electricity Subsidies 2002-2030"

Table 1: DECC Estimates of Renewables Obligation costs 2011-2015. Source: DECC, Control Framework for DECC levy-funded spending: Questions and Answers (2011), 4.⁹

Year	2011-2012 (£m)	2012-2013 (£m)	2013-2014 (£m)	2014-2015 (£m)
Renewables Obligation costs	1,764	2,191	2,615	3,203