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WIND DESTROYS TURBINE NEAR THURSO

On the evening of Friday 30th August a not very remarkable gust of wind of around 40mph destroyed a 25.9 metre to tip wind turbine on Scrabster Hill near Thurso. **Fortunately no-one was hurt.**



The turbine is some 215 metres or so off the A836, and an observer has noted that one piece of debris from the blades was thrown “70 paces, say 60 yards” from the turbine (say about 50 metres).

This is yet another lesson to be learnt from, but experience suggests that it will not be put to good use.

Highland Council steadfastly refuses to acknowledge any risk from siting small wind turbines in **school playgrounds** and considers that only at twice the wind speed which destroyed the Scrabster Hill turbine is there any need to consider action to close them down at 100mph. The action trigger level of 80mph is 6mph over “Hurricane” the highest level on the Beaufort Scale.

There is abundant evidence that these machines **can and do fail** under conditions far less severe than warranted by manufacturers.

Failures are usually caused by human error, but it is humans who order the installations, and install and maintain them. Due regard must be given to the fact that “to err is human”.

Surely now Highland Council will take notice and remove wind turbines from school playgrounds.

Notes to editors.

Following concerns expressed over the safety of wind turbines in school playgrounds, Highland Council closed them down for a period last year whilst “risk assessments” were undertaken. They were subsequently restarted earlier this year in the belief that risk would be eliminated by having the turbines serviced twice a year rather than the standard once a year.

Report: The Safety Aspects of The Highland Council’s Policy of Placing Small Wind Turbines in School Playgrounds <http://www.caithnesswindfarms.co.uk/SchoolsReport.htm>

High resolution photographs can be downloaded here <http://mbf.cc/lk3LD5> and here <http://mbf.cc/lBm4ld>.

Turbine type

http://www.harbonwindturbines.co.uk/documents/hwt60_brochure_rev_8_web.pdf

Beaufort Scale

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaufort_scale

For more information on the above, contact Stuart Young on 01847 851813

RELATED MATERIAL

For more information on the following related material, contact Lyndsey Ward on 07899 035135

This report was sent to every single MSP on 28th May 2103 – there was a shameful lack of response. The official Scottish Government’s reply from Fergus Ewing’s office showed, without doubt, that the report had not been fully examined. When the government’s reply was challenged on 18th July there was no response.

Fiona Macleod, SNP MSP, replied with a disrespectful email within eight minutes of receiving the report making clear she did not agree with it. In further correspondence she said she would ask her husband, a retired Health & Safety professional, for his input so she could give a considered factual response.

Ms Macleod was prompted to respond after nothing was forthcoming. Her reply on 19th June 2013: “*Neither I or my husband have had time to read this report yet. I’ll get back to you when we have if we have any comments.*”

Not only did the official from the government reply without studying the documentation in full but another SNP MSP stated she did not agree with the report when she had not read it.

What does that say about this SNP government and one of its MSPs about the importance they put on school children’s welfare?

This is not a trivial issue. This is about the safety of our children where they are educated, and that school turbines are not an appropriate piece of industrial machinery to have on school premises.

THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE SHOULD APPLY.