## Key Issues

The key issues for the submission of the Section 37 Variation application are:

- This is one of the first Section 36 Variation Applications being prepared for the Energy Consents and Development Unit (ECDU) of the Scottish Government.

- The proposed revisions to the layout of the scheme includes rerouting of 23km of internal access tracks, new locations for some turbines and number of borrow pits.

- By amending the layout there is the potential that the environmental effects assessed in the original (consented) scheme may change. It is important to understand the impact of the new layout to ensure that there are no significant effects arising from the revised layout.

- A new Environmental Statement (ES) is being prepared to demonstrate that the revised layout does not have any significant effects over and above those assessed in the original ES.

## Purpose of the project

Lewis Wind Power (LWP) are preparing an amendment to their consented 130MW wind farm on the Isle of Lewis.

The project was originally consented by the Scottish Government in 2012. However, following consent, further peat depth studies revealed if the layout of turbines was revised it could substantially reduce the volume of peat being disturbed. To achieve this a variation to the existing Section 36 application was required.

## Description of the project

The wind farm is located on the outskirts of Stornoway (on the Isle of Lewis) on land owned by the Stornoway Trust.

LWP have consent for a wind farm consisting of 36 turbines. The wind farm will be in operation for 25 years. It was important to avoid and minimise the level of peat being disturbed and this could be achieved by making minor alterations to the layout of the scheme.
Lessons learnt

- **Communication** – there was a risk that the local community and stakeholders would assume that the ES supporting the variation was to re-assess the whole development, and not just the revisions. This could lead to misconceptions and confusion for the local consultees.

- **Understanding the process** - As the variation to a consented development is a new process for all interested parties, it is important to understand the process and the differences with a 'standard' Section 36 application. This will ensure that the process is being correctly followed and that there are no hidden surprises in the latter stages of the ES preparation.

- **Appropriate scope** - The ES supporting a Variation to Section 36 consented development is only required to focus on the effects over and above those assessed in the consented development's ES. By only assessing the effects over and above those identified and assessed in the original ES, the new ES can be concise and focused on the changes to the scheme.

- **Baseline data** - A key detail to agree with the stakeholders is the baseline details and whether those used in the original assessment can be used again. This can allow for the revised assessment to be directly compared to the original assessment and its conclusions.

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