

**Closing Submission from Bob Graham**  
**For the Dorenell Wind Farm Inquiry**

*“The great masses of the people will more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one”.*

Adolf Hitler

It is this principle which has been adopted by the wind industry, and Infinergy, with their application to build a wind farm at Dorenell have truly upheld it. From start to finish they have sought to mislead, not only the public with disingenuous claims about the benefits of their application, but also the Scottish Government via this public inquiry.

**Government Targets**

It was generally agreed by all parties during the inquiry that the Scottish Government targets were based on reducing dependency on fossil-fuelled generation and in turn reducing carbon dioxide (co2) emissions. In my precognition I clearly established that this application would achieve neither. In fact building more wind farms will increase our dependency on fossil-fuelled generation.

The bmreports website showed us what a derisory contribution wind makes to the generation mix with at least 95% of demand being met by coal, gas and nuclear generation (currently, as I write, the website is showing 94%, with 4% coming from France, and less than 2% from wind). The volatility of wind generation means that regardless of the number of wind farms that are built not a single conventional power station can be closed. This incurs huge penalties both financially, and in terms of reducing co2 emissions.

During my cross examination of Mr Bell, I asked him how a wind farm at Dorenell could influence climate change when one considers that the theoretical reduction of global co2 levels, allowing for a load factor of **35%** at Dorenell would be **0.0007%**. This is based on annual global co2 emissions of 30,000 mega tonnes and a co2 displacement by wind of 430 kg per megawatt hour (MwH). Even allowing for an impossible load factor of **100%** there would only be a theoretical reduction of **0.002%** in global co2 emissions. His lame response was *'it was better than doing nothing'*. When one considers the destruction of 20 square kilometres of an AGLV and huge loss of visual amenity it would be clearly worse than doing nothing. There was no mention during the inquiry of the 60,000 tonnes of reinforced concrete required just for the turbine bases, strange when one considers that the manufacture of cement is responsible for between 5 and 10% of global co2 emissions.

The DPEA insist that public inquiries are not the place to discuss government policy. This beggars belief when one considers that without the delusional targets set by the Scottish Government, and the huge subsidies being paid for by the beleaguered UK consumers, this application would never have been submitted. Where better to challenge government policy than at a public inquiry? It is unacceptable to justify environmental vandalism of this scale and then even worse excuse it because of seriously flawed government policy. I would remind everyone that blind adherence to government *dictat* was an excuse used by war criminals during the Nuremberg Trials.

The final irony regarding government policy is that it is based on information provided by the wind industry, the very people who are receiving the huge subsidies. The power companies openly admit that without the Renewable Obligation Certificates (currently trading at £45 – [www.nfpa.co.uk](http://www.nfpa.co.uk) ) they would not entertain wind farms. Small wonder then that Dr. Etherington called his book, ‘the Wind Farm Scam’.

## **Visual and Cumulative Impact**

How can 59 x 410 foot turbines with tip heights more than 2000 feet above sea level be anything else than a disgraceful blot on our precious landscape? Marr Area Planning Committee were mindful, at the recent hearing, to approve the application at Clashindarroch, but have delayed the final decision pending further discussion about the location of 3 of the turbines. With all the other wind farms in and around the Moray area, a wind farm at Dorenell, in terms of cumulative impact, would be the final straw.

## **Tourism**

Of course there will not be an immediate effect on tourism but as I suggested at the inquiry it will be a case of ***death by a thousand cuts***. Infinergy are really scraping the barrel by suggesting that a ‘wind farm visitor’s centre’ would be a tourist attraction. The tourist attraction, in case they hadn’t noticed, is the ‘whisky trail’ and the associated scenery and all the outdoor activities that go with it. I live near the

river Spey and every year I meet foreign tourists when I'm fishing. Recently I spoke with several German tourists who quite simply said '***please don't do to Scotland what we have done to Germany***'. There are now almost 25,000 wind turbines in Germany and guess what? They are building new coal-fired power stations.

## **Public Opinion**

Surveys produced by the wind industry and the government claim that over 70% of the public are supportive of wind farms. The reason for this is quite simple, none of the surveys inform those taking part that:-

- 1) Wind power is not an alternative but is in fact in addition to existing plant which cannot be closed down due to the volatility of wind.
  
- 2) Wind power cannot make the slightest difference to climate change.
  
- 3) Wind power in the UK is costing the consumer approximately £3 million per day in subsidies. (There are many members of the public who still believe that wind power is free)

Were the participants informed of these 3 simple facts I think the outcome of these surveys would be completely different. Unbelievably, several of the surveys revealed that many of those involved had never even seen a wind farm.

For almost 10 years I have been sharing the results of my research with people all over the UK, and during this time it became obvious that people who supported wind farms fell into 2 categories, those who had a vested interest, and those who knew nothing about them. The vast majority of the public fall into the latter category and are completely vulnerable to the 'snake oil salesmen of the wind industry.

## **Benefits**

During this inquiry Infinergy have repeatedly tried to make a '***silk purse out of a sow's ear***'.

As I explained during my evidence, co-incidentally I played a minor role in the survey conducted by HIE, which was basically a feasibility study into the re-vitalisation of the Cabrach area. I spent some 3 months interviewing local people, mostly going door to door, and some of this time was also spent in the Dufftown and Elgin libraries researching the history of the Cabrach. The one thing that stood out above all else was the appalling relationship between the local people and the Glen Fiddich Estate. Access was denied, an estate game keeper was prosecuted for poisoning birds of prey, several buildings were mysteriously burnt down, allegedly to prevent payment of council tax - the list goes on. 'Googling' the estate owner makes for interesting reading.

The population of the Cabrach, now less than 50, is in terminal decline. The only school has been closed, there is no public transport, and the single lane road is

frequently closed during the winter. To suggest that affordable housing would be a benefit has me shaking my head in disbelief. By definition affordable housing is for people with little or no money. With no public transport, how do they get to work, how do their children get to school, how do they get to the shops? Perhaps the applicant will provide them all with cars. The whole concept is mind blowing and is just another example of Infinergy's desperation. The number of jobs being predicted is not worthy of discussion, 'cloud cuckoo land' comes to mind.

The community benefit of £2000 per installed megawatt is an insult, and would result in the local people receiving less than 1% of potential earnings from the wind farm. The irony being that they (the locals) would in fact be helping to fund this 'benefit', by the increases on their electricity bills that would result from this wind farm being built.

## **Planning**

Local Authorities are being intimidated by wind farm developers who know that they are stretched for cash and unlikely to object to applications because of the huge costs in subsequent public inquiries. They are also being intimidated by the Scottish Government and are being asked to 'roll over' in favour of their targets for renewable energy. Planning officers are under increased pressure to speed up reports which inevitably leads to mistakes and serious problems with staff morale. To further help speed up applications democracy has virtually been removed from the planning system. How can 20 plus documents be précised into the 60 pages of

the SPP without serious dilution? How can members of the public take part in a procedure that stretches even the experts?

## **Statutory Consultees**

I have selected an appropriate extract from the 'Darmstadt Manifesto' (one of my submitted documents), the last sentence was clearly written with great insight and certainly sums up SNH who have become nothing more than government 'lickspittles'

***The negative effects of the wind energy industry in our densely populated country are suppressed, scientific knowledge is ignored and there is a taboo on criticism. Only a few people are willing to break away from these political and social trends. After fighting for decades with great commitment for the preservation of our countryside the majority of the large organisations for the protection of nature now stand idly by watching its destruction.***

## **Conclusions**

Taking part in this inquiry wasn't easy for me and I am probably the only participant who was considerably out of pocket at the end of it. However, I care passionately about what little there is left of Scotland's landscapes and refuse to be cowed by the bully boys of the wind industry and our criminally incompetent politicians.

I am reminded of the gruesome nature film showing a Wildebeest in Africa being dragged down by a pack of wild dogs and eventually eaten alive. In this case the Wildebeest is Scotland's heritage and irreplaceable scenery.

I make no apologies for my unconventional style and use of analogies, there is too much at stake. The wind farm circus has finally departed Moray (until the next application) and is presumably now targeting another unsuspecting community elsewhere in Scotland. The lies will be refined and polished, the photomontages tweaked and more pressure will be put on the Consents Unit to ignore any democratic input.

Meanwhile there are pensioners dying of hypothermia because they can't afford to heat their homes, little knowing that they are funding an industry that is only interested in generating money. Approximately one third of the Scottish population is now in fuel poverty.