

## **POLICY NOTE**

### **THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2015**

#### **S.S.I. 2015/210**

1. The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 153(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (“the Act”). It is subject to negative procedure.

#### **Policy Objective**

2. The purpose of the Order is to vary section 153(1) of the Act so as to enable the Scottish Ministers to give financial assistance to, or for the purposes of, the programme known as the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (“the programme”).

3. The programme will focus on supporting the acceleration of low carbon infrastructure projects across the public, private and community sectors to develop investment grade business cases allowing projects to secure existing streams of public and private capital finance whilst contributing to the Scottish Government’s long-term target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020.

4. The programme is a collaborative partnership led by the Scottish Government, working with Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Futures Trust and Resource Efficient Scotland. It brings together various work streams that the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Futures Trust had in place to deliver a fresh integrated programme of project support activity. This collaborative programme will simplify the landscape for such projects and also strengthen the project development offer through cross-fertilisation of ideas and support mechanisms.

5. The variation made by this Order to section 153(1) of the Act will enable the Scottish Ministers to give financial assistance to, or for the purposes of the programme. In particular, it will allow the Scottish Ministers to give financial assistance for the purposes of the programme. Those purposes will include the provision of financial assistance for, or in connection with, eligible projects selected for catalyst, development or demonstrator support under the programme. This will enable Ministers to support a wider range of environmental programmes, specifically the development of low carbon infrastructure projects.

#### **Consultation**

6. Consultation was not considered necessary because the variation by this Order to section 153(1) of the Act will have no adverse impact on third parties or the environment and because the provision of financial assistance to, or for the purposes of, the programme changes are consistent with established policy objectives.

#### **Financial and other Impacts**

7. Beyond extending the power to provide financial assistance under section 153(1) of the Act, there are no direct financial impacts. In addition, the changes made will have no

adverse impact on third parties or the environment. No business and regulatory impact assessment or strategic environment assessment is therefore required.

Energy Division  
Scottish Government  
30 April 2015