



Scottish & Southern  
Electricity Networks

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# Argyll and Bute Information Sharing Webinar

## Stakeholder feedback report

May 2022

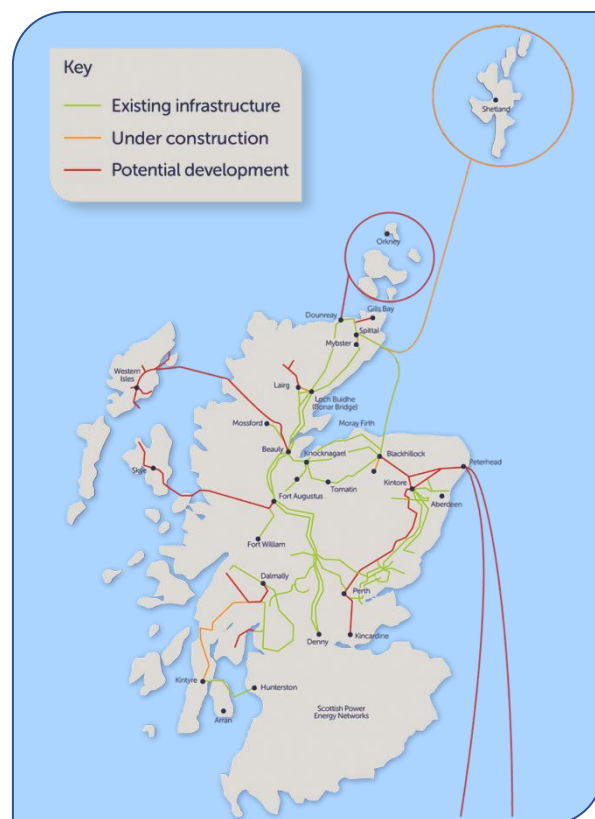
## About us

We are SSEN Transmission (the trading name for Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission), and we are part of the SSE plc Group. We are responsible for the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland maintaining and investing in the high voltage 132kV, 220kV, 275kV and 400kV electricity transmission network.

Our network consists of underground and subsea cables, overhead lines on wooden poles or steel towers, and electricity substations. It extends over a quarter of the UK's land mass, crossing some of its most challenging terrain and powering our communities by providing a safe and reliable supply of electricity. We do this by taking the electricity from generators and transporting it at high voltages over long distances through our transmission network for onwards distribution to homes and businesses in villages, towns and cities.

Scotland's transmission network has a strategic role to play in supporting delivery of the UK's Net Zero target. We're already a mass exporter of renewable energy, with around two thirds of power generated in our networks area exported south. By 2050, the north of Scotland will need 33-35GW of renewable energy capacity to support net zero delivery. For context, we currently have just over 8GW of renewable generation connected in the north of Scotland. We are committed to inclusive stakeholder engagement, conducting regular external assurance audits on both our Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and delivery plans and were recently awarded 'Advanced' status by AccountAbility, the international consulting and standards firm.

**Find out more:** [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk)



## Introduction

On 17th March 2021, SSEN Transmission held their first Argyll and Bute information sharing webinar. As part of our stakeholder engagement strategy, we invited everyone with an interest in future electricity network plans for Argyll and Bute to join us to hear about our stakeholder-led plans and update stakeholders on the construction and operation activities in the region.

During the interactive session we shared an overview of our transmission projects currently in construction in the region and their progress, potential future transmission projects in the region and why they are required; and further opportunities to engage with SSEN Transmission and help shape our plans. Feedback from the event indicated that 83% of attendees prefer the engagement methods of emails or webinars and there was significant interest in hearing more about the projects discussed during the webinar.

Based on this feedback, SSEN Transmission held a follow up webinar on 10th May 2022, this second event following a very similar format to the webinar held in 2021. It provided those with an interest in the region, an opportunity to hear about our current and future plans regarding the local electricity transmission network and put any questions to our presenters. It provided information on the economic opportunities these projects bring and future engagement opportunities.

This report outlines the engagement process undertaken for the May 2022 webinar, the extent of stakeholder participation, themes of comments and questions received, and next steps based on stakeholder feedback.



## Engagement process

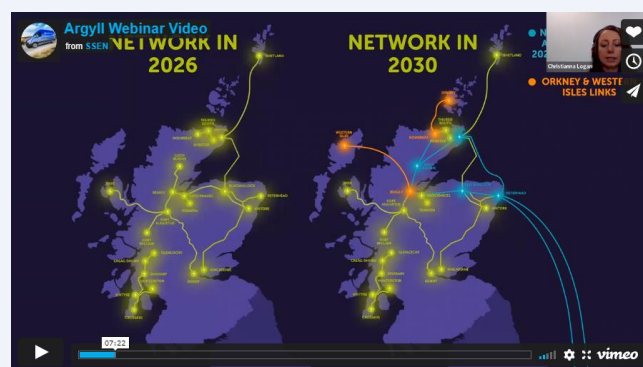
Feedback from the [March 2021](#) Argyll and Bute regional webinar indicated that this was the most preferable engagement method for engagement in this regional area alongside email.

93% of responders from 2021 also told us that they were interested in hearing more about the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy. With an extensive programme of regulatory and statutory submissions relating to the project across Spring/Summer 2022, this was considered an optimal time to provide a detailed update to a wide range of stakeholders. Given the extent of interest across other development and construction projects, it was determined another full regional webinar would be the best approach for engaging.

The purpose was to ensure those with an interest in the region were well informed of upcoming project milestones and their opportunities to provide comment and help shape proposals, whilst also providing an opportunity to put questions to the project team. In turn, SSEN Transmission aimed to increase the number of stakeholders signed up for updates across the region, to aid the effectiveness of any communications regarding key milestones across projects in the region.



Graphic utilised in our social media advertising



Screenshot from the live presentation

## Stakeholder participation



The webinar was extensively advertised to ensure a wide range of different stakeholder groups were provided with the opportunity to attend the session.

- Over 500 stakeholders from our database were emailed with the details of the event
- This was supplemented by tailored emails from environmental, land, community and regulatory stakeholder engagement leads to their contacts
- Details were published on the SSEN Transmission website, and through our social media channels

Subsequently:

**184 Stakeholders Registered to attend**  
**97 Attended the session**  
**54 Questions/Comments were submitted**  
**22 Feedback Surveys were received**

## Stakeholder questions



Of the 54 questions and/or comments submitted, around 20 were addressed directly during the webinar. Around 10 of the comments were general observations, and of the remaining 24 questions around half of askers provided contact details.

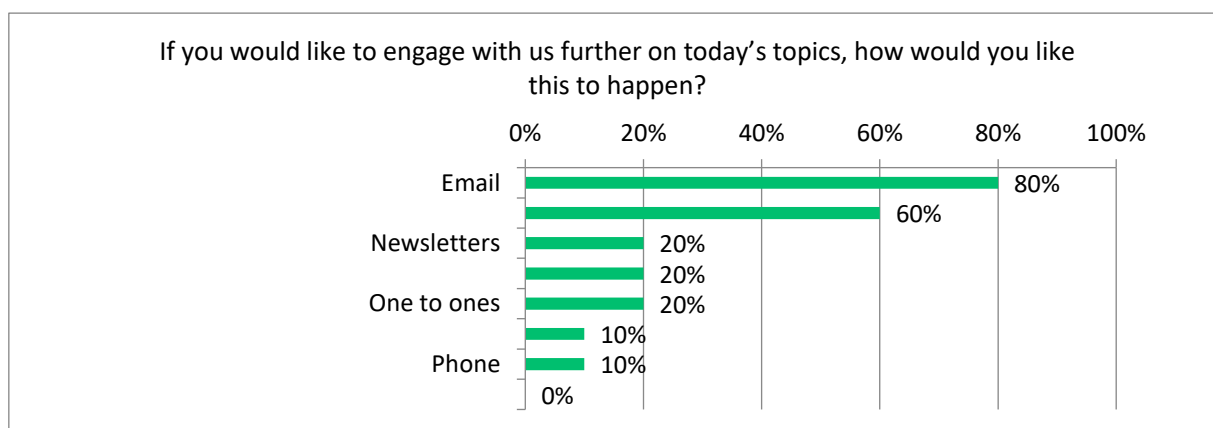
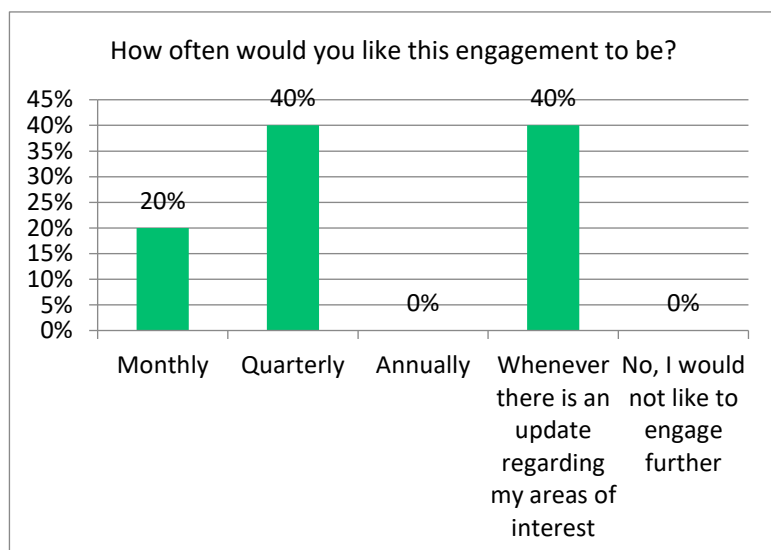
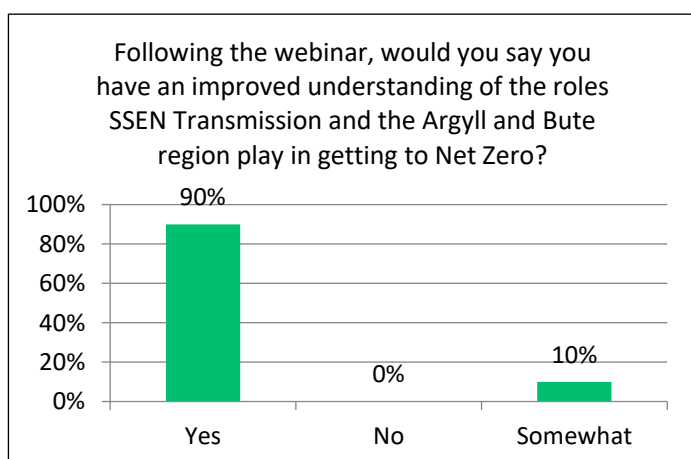
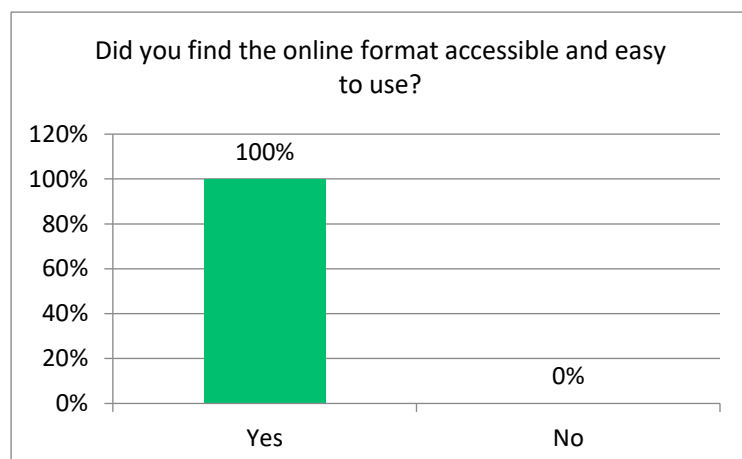
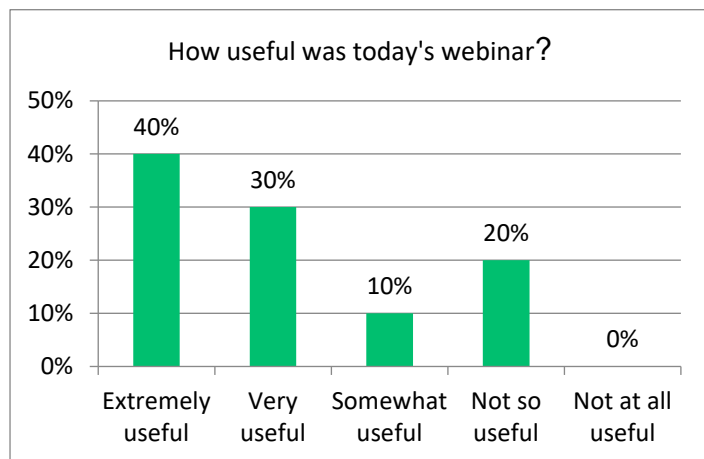
Following the webinar, all attendees registered received a thank you email containing links to a recording and copy of the presentation slides. Stakeholders were advised that where they had submitted contact details alongside their question, we would endeavour to provide a direct response. Those who submitted anonymously were encouraged to contact us should they wish for a direct response.

Questions received during the session can be grouped into the following 3 key themes:

- Supply chain information regarding timescales, forecasting and opportunities
- Alternatives to new overhead line solutions
- Potential environmental impacts and means of mitigation

## Your feedback

Following the webinar, a feedback form was distributed to all attendees, to allow us to measure the success of the engagement and opportunities for future improvement. 22 feedback forms were received, with the results as follows:



In summary, 90% of those completing the post event feedback form said that the webinar had helped their understanding of the roles of SSEN Transmission, and the Argyll and Bute area play in the delivery of Net Zero, with 70%

finding the webinar extremely useful or very useful. All attendees found the webinar accessible and 80% requested that they received further updates by email.

Some stakeholder feedback comments are below:

- “Webinar was very informative”.
- “Made aware of the massive increase in onshore about to hit Kintyre and Argyll vis a vis 18 months ago and the new Energy Security Strategy”.
- “I am a graduate, due to start work in September, so it was good to get familiar with my new company”.
- “I found the Webinar and its contents extremely helpful”.
- “You need to engage with EKREG regarding proper, structured Community Benefits for Kintyre for the Argyll upgrade and disruption that is going to come from the upgrade allowing 2.7GW of windfarm developments at Offshore heights in a previously non-industrialised landscape”.
- “More details for supply chain please e.g. the length of OHL content was illustrated, however the number of bays in each of the proposed substations would have been really helpful”
- “The public engagement was poor. It was a one-way controlled diktat. A more open conversation would have been welcomed”.



## Next steps based on your feedback

We thank all stakeholders who participated in the webinar and for their honest feedback. This helps us improve our engagement approach and ensure our stakeholders views are fully considered in the project development.

The feedback we received, was generally positive with most stakeholders finding the information shared useful. We acknowledge the feedback received, particularly from local community stakeholders, regarding the effect of additional infrastructure and this has therefore been prioritised. Further additional engagement opportunities will now be scheduled, with targeted engagement to further describe the trade-offs undertaken to date and to aid transparency regarding our plans throughout the duration of the project development.

The planning applications for each of the development projects mentioned in the webinar are due to be submitted over the course of 2022. Upon submission stakeholders will have opportunity to make formal representation to the Energy Consents Unit and/or Argyll and Bute Council. We will communicate when this happens directly with the community by letter. To further support this stage in the development process we will also provide the community and wider stakeholders with the opportunity to review the planning application details at an in-person engagement event in the summer of 2022, this will explain how any environmental concerns have been considered. Using 3D modelling, we hope to provide stakeholders with a clear representation of what the proposed route will look like and opportunities to engage directly with the project team.

Details for our dedicated email address for any queries in relation to procurement and the supply chain were shared on the webinar and any further opportunities to engage on this topic, including any future Meet the Buyer events will be advertised on our website.

A recording of the webinar and a copy of the slides used have now been made available on our [website](#). The [Argyll Strategy project pages](#) also include information on the associated projects in the Argyll and Bute region and details of how stakeholders can get involved.

## How to get in touch



If you have any questions about this report, please get in touch with [transmission.stakeholder.engagement@sse.com](mailto:transmission.stakeholder.engagement@sse.com)

If you have any questions regarding projects within the Argyll and Bute region, please contact the project Community Liaison Manager:

**Caitlin Quinn**  
[Caitlin.Quinn@sse.com](mailto:Caitlin.Quinn@sse.com)  
**07901135758**



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