Aberdeenshire COUNCIL Environment & Infrastructure Services

Planning Briefing Note – January 2026

Notification from Energy Consents Unit of updated representation process for applications to build, operate or modify an electricity generating station and/or associated infrastructure (i.e. overhead power lines).

Aberdeenshire Council have received notification that the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) are updating their online portal, and specifically their representations process. The ECU have updated their Online Portal so that members of the public should now submit representations on Section 36 and Section 37 Applications using the portal.

S36 applications are those for energy generating proposals of over 50MW. S37 applications include overhead line proposals. These are proposals that are determined by the Energy Consents Unit, and not Aberdeenshire Council. Representations to any S36 or S37 application being determined by the ECU should now be made via the portal at: https://www.energyconsents.scot/RepresentationSearch.aspx

Those wishing to submit a representation will need the reference or project name, and you can search for the proposal using the project name or by Local Authority. A working email address is required to submit a representation.

As of **19 January 2026**, the email address representations@gov.scot will no longer be used for submitting public representations to the ECU. There are a number of exceptions for existing cases, but none of these are within the Aberdeenshire Council area. Postal submissions remain available for those who do not have access to the portal. Postal submissions can be made addressed to:

Energy Consents Unit
Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Please note that Aberdeenshire Council are unable to accept or consider representations on these types of applications.

There is no change to the way that responses from the Planning Authority are submitted to the ECU.

There is guidance at this webpage on submitting representations to the ECU: https://www.gov.scot/publications/energy-consents-how-to-support-or-object-to-an-application/

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