THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST RENEWABLE ENERGY STATISTICS

I have detailed below the latest set of renewable energy statistics published on **30th March 2023** which shows the position as at **31st December 2022**.

Operational Capacity
This has reached **13.9GW** with a **quarterly increase** of **0.3GW** and an **annual increase** of **1.6GW.** The annual increase is far higher than in any previous 12 months period.

Schemes with Consent are subdivided into the two categories of **Schemes under Construction** and those on which construction hasn't yet begun. The latter are often simply called **Consented Schemes**.

Schemes under construction amount to **4.1GW**. When these are added to operational schemes the total is **18.2GW.** That is a **quarterly increase** of **1.2GW** and an **annual increase** of **3.0GW.** The latter is also the highest increase in any year.

Schemes with Consent stand at **10.4GW**. That represents increases of **0.2GW** over both the last quarter and the last year.

Planning
The figure for schemes in planning is a scarcely credible **11.1GW** a quarterly increase of **4.2GW** and **6.0GW** year on year.

Onshore and **Offshore**
As mentioned in the official commentary a significant part of these increases came from offshore schemes. For those not blindly obsessed by increasing onshore capacity all the data shows that offshore schemes are the best way to increase capacity rapidly.

The data shows that a much higher percentage of **offshore** schemes have progressed from obtaining consent to starting construction (**2.8GW** from **3.9GW)** than for onshore ones (just **1.4GW** of the **5.6GW** consented). This confirms that delays in increasing capacity have arisen mainly from the failure of developers with onshore consents to progress them timeously.

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