Scottish government is encouraging households to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a major cause of climate change and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. To utilize environmentally friendly renewable energy sources to help reduce global warming and sustain the future of the planet.
Wind is a domestic power source, it helps to create and promote a more sustainable country.
40% of all wind energy in Europe blows over the UK and our site is ideally located with a high yearly average wind speed in excess of 8m/second.
Wind turbines complement other renewable energy technologies e.g. combining a wind turbine with our solar panel array will maintain a steady and reliable supply of electricity all year.
The FIT (feed in tariff) is being stopped early 2019 and will render the wind turbine installation non-viable for us. We are passionate about sustaining the planets future but we can only do this if financially viable.
Our home heating and domestic hot water is provided by 2 electrically operated air source heat pumps. The addition of the wind turbine will greatly contribute to our electrical demand requirements in the winter months and with the existing solar PV array in the summer we will achieve a zero carbon footprint.

The high cost of a professional noise survey is prohibitive for a domestic application.
We carried out a noise survey onsite in line with the Environmental Health Officers (EHO) guidance although he did not agree to the methodology as this requires high cost instrumentation, costing in excess of £10,000.00. The survey we carried out used the same instrumentation used by a previous applicant for Drayton House to appeal a declined decision, this was accepted by Scottish ministers and the appeal was successful.
Our survey demonstrates a high background noise exists and the EHO personally witnessed this during a site visit. We have demonstrated that the background noise is greater than Moray councils maximum noise level of 38db at wind speeds above 2.7m/second and the proposed turbines cut in/start-up speed is 3.5m/second.
The proposed turbine will not produce a higher noise level than the ambient/background noise for any wind speed above the startup speed for the turbine.
All noise measurements were taken when there was no local traffic, no farm animals in adjacent fields or activities by neighbours causing extraneous noise.
Our site is a rural location and subjected to farming activities associated with neighbouring Maryhill farm giving rise to considerable long term background noises, i.e. from sheep in adjacent fields (early spring to the backend of the year), farm machinery movements and road traffic associated with local motor repair garage and school route.
Our site is also surrounded on three sides by trees and our neighbouring property to the North is hidden from view by trees and shrubs. The prevailing wind in the UK is South West and our neighbouring property lies to the North of the proposed turbine position.

The noise data provided by the MCS approved manufacture is the absolute noise level which we are very close to the green/acceptable level and far from the red /unacceptable level.

We have provided accredited/proven evidence for reduction in noise by trees and shrubs on the leeward side but this has not been taken into consideration by the EHO.
We have researched two other local applications for the same turbine that were appealed and both won - Both applications are for a Proven turbine which has been taken over by Kingspan (the same turbine we propose to install) and both turbines are closer to neighbouring properties without any barriers to help reduce noise;
1 08/01278/FUL Rowan bank , Main Road, Cummingston, Moray, hub height 15m and located 90m from nearest residential dwelling
2 09/00577/FUL Drayton House, Forres, Moray, hub height 9m and located 65m from nearest residential dwelling. NB The noise meter used for this application is the same one used for our application

Our original proposal was for a position approximately 45m from the nearest residential dwelling. This was relocated following planners recommendations to a position 97m away and hub height increased to the next size up tower from 15m to 20m due to lower ground level at this revised position and the dense tree lines. There is an article in the wind power engineering site, https://www.windpowerengineering.com/construction/loud-wind-turbine-really that highlights sound decreases significantly with distance and height – another good reason to allow taller towers.

We hope that the review will show that all information we have provided ensures that the proposed wind turbine will not cause any discomfort or detrimental effects to our neighbours.