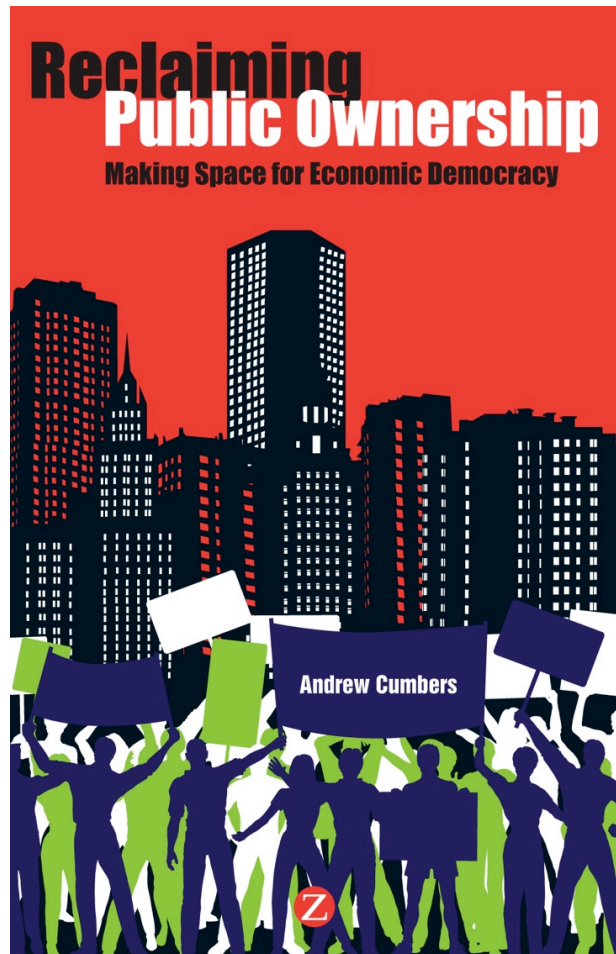


PUBLIC OWNERSHIP, ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY AND ENERGY



Andrew Cumbers
University of Glasgow

International Workshop on Publicly
Owned Energy Companies
Edinburgh, May 2018

Alternative Models of Ownership report

#Lab17

We are today launching
a Report on Alternative
Models of Ownership.

REBECCA LONG-BAILEY MP
SHADOW BUSINESS SECRETARY

 **Labour**



<https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Alternative-Models-of-Ownership.pdf>

5 aspirations for democratic public ownership

- To promote greater participation in economic decisions making by workers, consumers, citizens
- To regain 'commanding heights' for the common good
- To facilitate local community control
- To redistribute income + wealth
- To nurture knowledgeable 'publics' + collective learning

What form should public ownership take?

- No one model
- Diverse + hybrid approaches
- Multi-scalar
- Local subsidiarity with higher level strategic coordination
- 'De-centred' more than decentralised

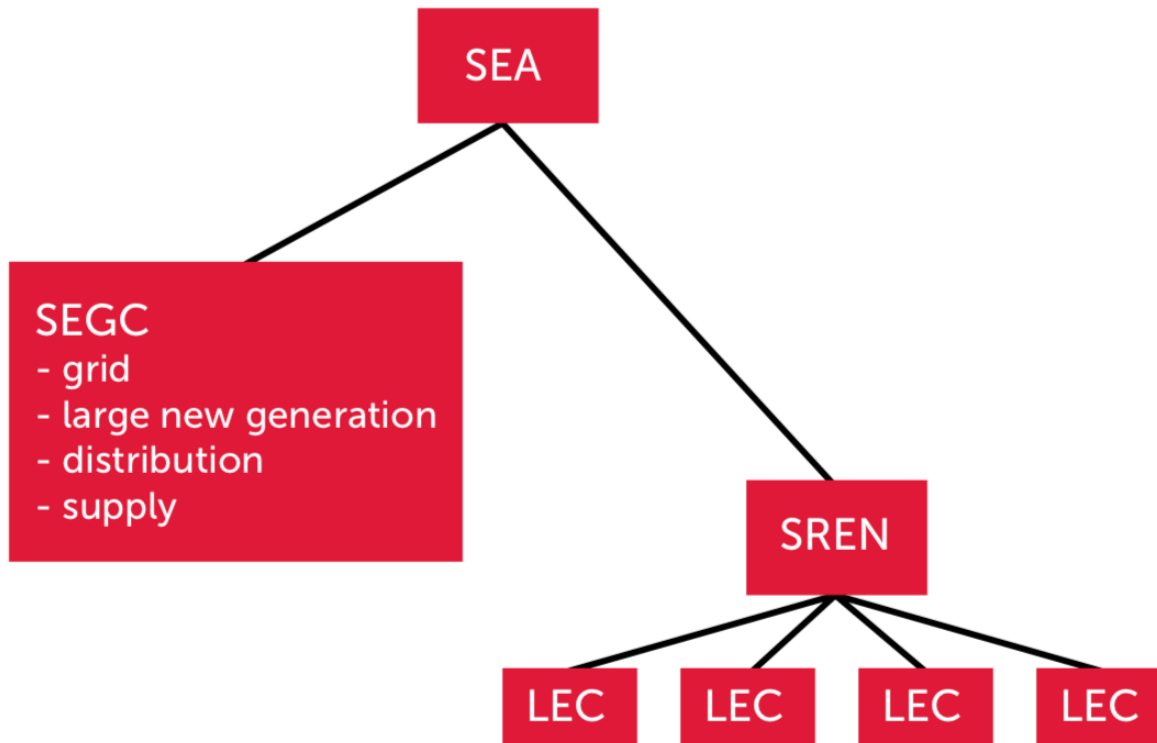
Decentralised public ownership: the Danish renewables experience

- decentralised model of local public ownership – cooperatives + municipal ownership
- high levels of democracy and public participation (1 in 8 families own share in wind farm)
- new hybrid forms of public ownership

(e.g. Middelgrunden 50/50
Copenhagen City Council
/residents co-op of 8,500
members)



Figure 6: Proposed Structure of Scottish Energy Sector



SEA – Scottish Energy Agency

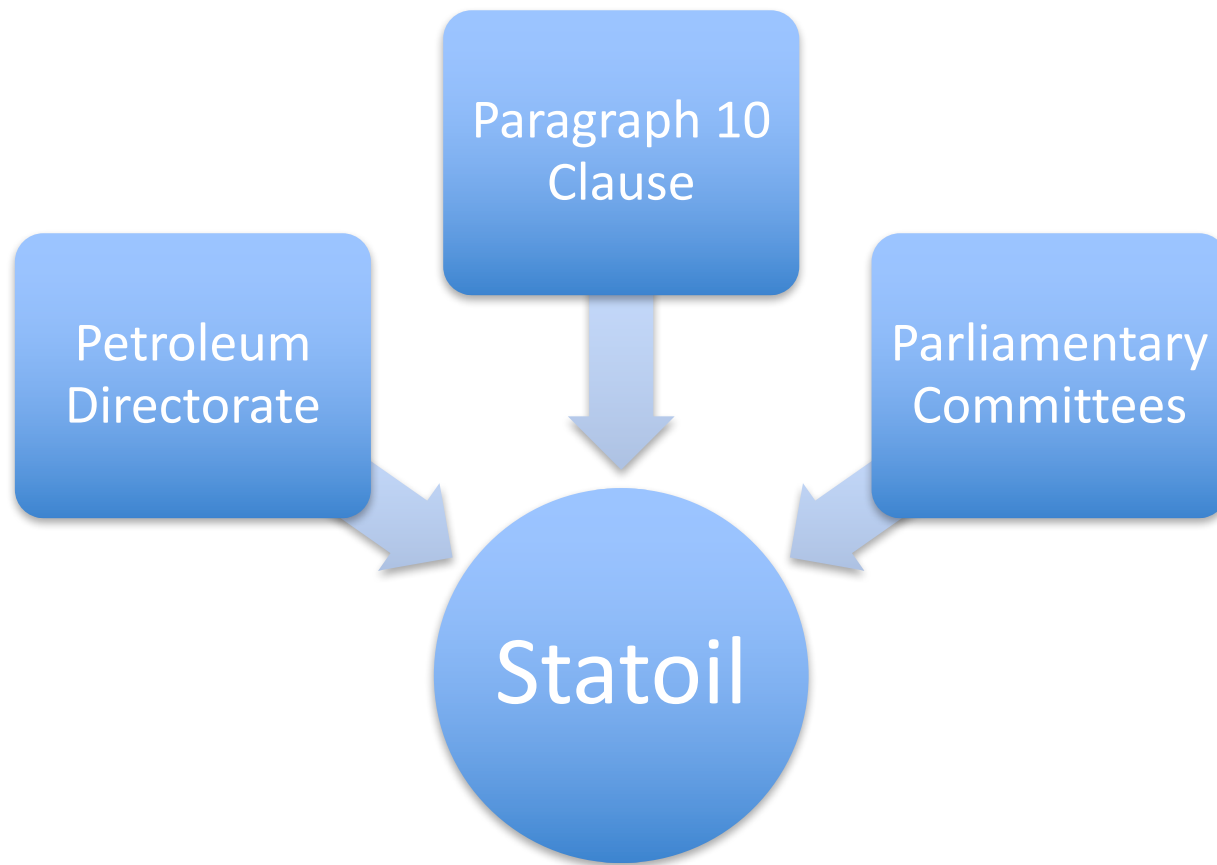
SREN – Scottish Renewables Energy Network

SEGC – Scottish Electricity Generation Corporation

LEC – Local energy company

Cumbers et al 2013 *Repossessing the Future: A Common Weal Strategy for Community and Democratic Ownership of Scotland's Energy Resources*. Jimmy Reid Foundation.

Statoil in the 1970s: embedding state ownership within a deliberative process of public engagement



“No government by experts in which the masses do not have the chance to inform the experts as to their needs can be anything but an oligarchy managed in the interests of the few... The world has suffered more from leaders and authorities than from the masses.”

“The essential need, in other words, is the improvement of the methods and conditions of debate, discussion and persuasion. That is the problem of the public.”

D. Morris and I. Shapiro (eds), (1993) *John Dewey: The Political Writings*, Hackett, p187.

Creating Democratic Public Ownership: recent reports

Diversifying Public Ownership (2017), Next System Project:

<https://thenextsystem.org/diversifying-public-ownership>

Renewing Public Ownership Constructing a Democratic Economy in the Twenty-First Century (2014), Centre for Labour and Social Studies:

<http://classonline.org.uk/pubs/item/renewing-public-ownership>

andrew.cumbers@glasgow.ac.uk

<https://democratisingtheeconomy.com/>