Media Coverage – Small Hydro campaign

Jan 15: BBC Scotland – The Nine news programme – featuring Adrian Loening interview. (MP4 copy on request)

Jan 16: [The National](https://www.thenational.scot/news/18163254.energy-bosses-slam-review/?ref=twtrec) – Energy bosses slam Tretton review over small hydro power

Jan 16: [The Herald](file:///Users/alexlinklater/Library/Containers/com.apple.mail/Data/Library/Mail%20Downloads/A2BEF258-F2F0-4C40-9E6B-6AE32AB29213/Scots%20hydro%20power%20operators%20%27at%20risk%27%20from%20unsustainable%20rates%20bills) - Scots hydro power operators 'at risk' from unsustainable rates bills

Jan 16: [The Times](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hydro-power-firms-fear-rate-rises-are-stifling-green-energy-xf0phhkfh) – (paywall) (copied below) Hydro power firms fear rate rises are stifling green energy

Jan 16: [Energy Voice](https://www.energyvoice.com/otherenergy/218096/hydro-firms-hit-out-at-scottish-government-over-punitive-business-rates/) - Hydro firms hit out at Scottish Government review over ‘punitive’ business rates

Jan 17: [The National](https://www.thenational.scot/news/18166835.small-hydro-operators-hopeful-talks-scottish-government/?ref=twtrec) - Small hydro operators hopeful after talks with Scottish Government

Jan 17: BBC Radio Scotland – morning news bulletins

Times article:

# **Hydro power firms fear rate rises are stifling green energy**

[**Greig Cameron**](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/profile/greig-cameron)**, Scottish Business Editor**

Investment in small hydro power in Scotland is being “suffocated” because of an unfair business rates regime, industry bosses have claimed.

The civil engineering work and machinery involved in the schemes typically means they have a rateable value greater than other renewable energy technologies such as solar.

Industry bodies were angered yesterday when an inquiry into the rateable values of hydro power offered few conclusions. At present the Scottish government cuts up to 60 per cent off business rates but some schemes get little relief as accepting the full discount may breach state aid rules.

Small hydro owners are concerned that the uncertainty is deterring further investment. Operators suggest that since the 2017 revaluation they have faced a rateable value equivalent to more than 20 per cent of their turnover.

Alex Linklater, 51, executive director of Alba Energy, which represents Scottish hydro operators, said: “Long-term economic damage is being inflicted on Scotland’s indigenous green energy source, suffocating the potential for future development and investment.”

There are about 500 small hydro schemes in Scotland.

Hugh Raven, of Ardtornish Estate, Argyll, operates five. His non-domestic rates bill has trebled to more than £500,000 on a turnover of about £3 million. “The impact of this unfair revaluation on our business is huge. I don’t know of any other business paying anything like this level of rates,” he said.

Representatives are due to meet Kate Forbes, the minister with responsibility for business rates, today.