



Councillor Dick Walsh
Leader

Kilmory
Lochgilphead
PA31 8RT

Tel: 01546 604328 Fax 01546 604349
Email: dick.walsh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Stuart Cook
Director
Transmission
Ofgem
9 Millbank
London
SW1P 3GE

Our Ref: DW/KT59Let

Your Ref:

Date 14 April 2009

Dear Mr Cook,

DEROGATIONS TO FACILITATE EARLIER CONNECTION OF GENERATION – PROPOSED INTERIM APPROACH

I refer to your request for comments relative to the interim approach that you are “minded to” adopt for derogations from the minimum standards of the GB Security and Quality of Supply Standards (GB SQSS) and would comment as follows: Argyll and Bute Council would wholly support The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (ofgem) in their “minded to” adopt position as regards the derogations as this would facilitate the earlier connection of generation to the transmission system and distribution systems in GB and more specifically in Argyll and Bute.

There is a significant issue affecting Argyll and Bute's grid infrastructure whereby it is considered to be effectively “saturated”, with the result that any new projects (even very small ones) are being refused connections any earlier than 2018. The sustainable development of further onshore wind and new marine and tidal renewable developments will only be taken forward in Argyll and Bute if the necessary capacity is first built into the grid. There is no doubt that the current lack of capacity is holding back the future development of our extensive renewable resource.

As a Council we recognise that we need to lobby strongly at all levels to secure the upgrade of the transmission network within Argyll and Bute we do not want to be left behind particularly in the developing marine renewable field where early progress is critical and global competition is catching up fast.


We are aware that the grid issues facing Argyll and Bute, and their solutions, can be split into two time-frames namely the short term (2009 – 2013) and the longer term (2013 onwards). In respect of the short term solutions the granting of the derogation, by ofgem, is critical as this would allow Scottish and Southern Energy to offer an earlier connection to some renewable generation projects in Argyll and Bute ahead of wider system reinforcement work which is part of the longer term solutions. It is for this reason that we would strongly support the “minded to” approach being proposed by ofgem.



As a Council we realise that we have a significant role to play in assisting the UK and Scottish government in delivering on their target for renewable and reducing carbon emissions however ensuring that there is capacity built into the transmission network within Argyll and Bute is critical to us delivering on this.

Should you require any further information in respect of this matter please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dick Walsh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dick Walsh
Leader