



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean

Lesley Nugent
Ofgem
70 West Regent St
Glasgow
G2 2QZ

Lesley.nugent@ofgem.gov.uk

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Dear Ms Nugent

HIE response to Ofgem open letter of 19 March 09: Derogations to facilitate earlier connection of generation - proposed interim approach

HIE welcomes the opportunity to respond to Ofgem's open letter consultation of 19 March on the proposed interim approach to derogations to facilitate early connection of generation.

Transmission access is considered highly important by HIE for the economic development of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Along with its local partners, the democratically elected local authorities covering the north of Scotland: Shetland Islands Council, Orkney Islands Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highland Council, Argyll & Bute Council and Moray Council; HIE has responded to a number of consultations on issues affecting development, access and management of grid infrastructure. We are working closely with Scottish Government in relation to a wide range of regulatory issues and are supporting its efforts to challenge barriers currently blocking renewables development across Scotland.

HIE strongly supports the proposed interim approach detailed in the open letter. Ofgem's proposals are likely to allow a significant capacity of new renewable generation to connect earlier than would otherwise be permitted, and therefore will assist in meeting policy targets for renewables.

The proposals are necessarily pragmatic, but appear to have avoided introducing new regulatory risk or uncertainty. HIE welcomes this approach to a complex issue.

Yours Sincerely

Audrey MacIver
Head of Energy
Key Sectors

On behalf of a Highlands & Island Partnership comprising:
Shetland Islands Council
Orkney Islands Council
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Highland Council
Argyll & Bute Council
Moray Council