

I am writing on behalf of my wife and I and wish to object to the proposed SSEN interconnector cable from Shetland to the mainland Scotland a distance of approx. 250km

This project is nothing more than a money-making project for a few people and will not benefit Shetland or the general public, it cannot be regarded value for money at £709m,

Spending this amount of money on the inter connector coupled with the costs for the wind farms is just not viable. This massive burden should not be added to the consumer at a time when we are entering the worst recession in living memory, when thousands of people are losing their jobs, the government is paying Billions out on various schemes, the health and mental health of the UK population are causing great difficulty

SSEN claim that they will pay the major part of the costs of the inter connector ,but in reality, this will only be passed onto the bill payer. Please bear in mind that Shetland has the highest fuel poverty in the UK at 43%. A study published in the Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement showed that, nationally, every time energy prices increase by 5% a further 2% of households will be pushed into fuel poverty.

The idea about value for money should also consider the value of what is to be destroyed. Shetland is unique in this sense being the last wilderness in the UK, home to many rare species of bird (many Schedule 1 Birds) and other wildlife, pristine moorland will be destroyed, massive turbines will be built close to people's homes which will cause health problems. The threat of a major landslide should not be ignored, and the road system is not adequate to accommodate the transportation of enormous wind turbines.

It should be noted that Wind Turbines in Shetland will not be running continually as they will be subject to storm force winds or calm flat conditions or because the grid would be at risk of being overloaded.

No doubt that could be a reason that Viking applied for larger turbines as they would know they would be due larger amounts of money 'when they are not working'- again not value for money. £650m was paid out over last decade for not generating electricity.

This is why Shetland may have been selected because of the low local demand and weak grid connectivity which allow operators collect vast sums of money from 'Constraint payments'

Morag Watson of Scottish renewables claims that it will bring enormous benefits to Shetland but fails to consider that the majority of Shetlanders have opposed these windfarms from the start or the need for an inter connector

The fact is that the Shetland Island Council have had conflicting interests ploughing money into the Viking windfarm proposal and ignoring the original idea that the Oil money should be used for the benefit of the Shetland public. They have deliberately not asked the Shetland people whether or not they want these wind farms

It has been established already that subsea cables are not reliable, for instance the western inter connector has failed a number of times since it became operational in October 2018. Failing cables are a costly problem, energy providers must compensate wind farms which continue to generate energy but cannot transmit it, this latest case cost around £5m, ultimately the bill will fall on the consumers. Danish and French inter connectors have also had failures recently

SSE and SSEN are claiming that Shetland needs the subsea cable to direct power back to Shetland to run a new Power Station but again this does not offer value for money or reliability. A Danish firm has already said they could deliver a much cheaper, value for money liquefied natural gas (LNG) Plant at a fraction of the cable's cost.

As for it being a green project, this is utter nonsense, wind farms on peatland cause high levels of carbon release, the deeper the dig the more carbon will be released, the construction of wind turbines and transportation will only add to the problem.

Our aim should be to protect nature and our environment for future generations, then building large wind farms in small areas such as Shetland makes no sense at all.

All energy consumers pay for the cost of investment in any new network capacity through their energy bills and as the regulator you have to ensure that it obtains the best deal possible for them. As pointed out in this email, this scheme DOES NOT offer value for money and therefore should not go ahead.