

Dear Sir,

I respond to the consultation on the above.

While there is much technical detail about the alleged advantages of the scheme, there appears to be nothing about the impact it will have on fuel poverty in Shetland.

The Scottish Government has recognised the problems caused by high energy costs especially in remote places like Shetland. The people of Shetland have long been disadvantaged by the lack of connection to the UK National Grid, the high cost of diesel generation of electricity and the failure to maximise the possibilities of generating electricity from oil & gas at the Sullom Voe Terminal. SSE and other potential windfarm developers have a part to play in meeting the targets set by the Scottish Government and ensuring that Shetland consumers pay a fair price for their electricity.

The windfarm and the interconnector provide an opportunity to do something to reduce fuel poverty in the isles. If the proposed development is allowed to go ahead, a way needs to be found by which electricity prices in Shetland can be capped to recognise the huge contribution this scheme will make to renewable energy in the rest of the United Kingdom. Historically the people of Shetland have had to pay more for our electricity because we are considered to be remote. The tables can now be turned so that consumers elsewhere pay a higher price to cover the cost of the interconnector.

While the proposed Community Benefit Fund is to be welcomed, it is unlikely that everybody would be advantaged by this. It is only by reducing the actual cost of electricity to all consumers that some compensation can be made to local residents for the damage that the interconnector and windfarms will do to the environment, visual amenity, tourism etc.

If it goes ahead, the Transmission Project paves the way for potentially highly profitable windfarm developments in Shetland. Ofgem needs to ensure that the people of Shetland benefit directly from this.

Yours faithfully,