

MR & MRS A & K TAIT
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4 October 2021

James Norman
Head of Electricity Transmission Development
Ofgem

Dear Mr Norman,

Shetland HDVC link - project assessment

As we write this letter, sadly diggers are currently destroying what was once a beautiful wilderness not far from our family home. This project is truly a tragedy for Shetland, so many unspoilt areas have now been excavated and will never be the same again. We have to witness our Island being destroyed for generations to follow as well as having to now suffer the anxieties other UK consumers are experiencing with the climbing bills to pay for similar projects along with the worrying increasing costs owing to the current energy market crisis.

As anticipated SSE Transmission have submitted updates to their costs to Ofgem for approval. At the time the final needs case for the link was being considered Ofgem would have known of the cost implications that could arise from Covid and Brexit. These additional costs along with the numerous other substantial costs from constructing a wind farm hundreds of miles away from demand leaves us with very little confidence that Ofgem are in fact acting in the interest of the consumers' and other industries in the UK. We are very concerned that both private and commercial consumers', and possibly tax payers will be lumbered with paying for the additional costs of these projects along with the climbing energy costs emerging from the UK energy crisis.

We are seriously concerned for those vulnerable and in fuel poverty just now with the pace our energy bills have increased. During this challenging times there may sadly be many more consumers' that will experience fuel poverty in the months ahead. We live in hope that this winters weather will be kind to us all but this is not a good situation for UK consumers, both private and commercial. It's safe to say the renewables markets will be doing well but what about the other industries in the UK?

We believe the LNG proposal should have been properly considered as a sustainable solution for Shetland. This would have removed the need for the link between the Isles and the UK. We do not agree with the questions in your consultation. We believe this project should not have been allowed, energy produced hundreds of miles from energy demand is costly and in allowing this to go ahead, UK consumers' interests have not been satisfactorily protected.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew & Kerry Tait