**OFGEM DRAFT DETERMINATION: RIIO-ED2 BUSINESS PLAN (OUTER HEBRIDES)**

We urge Ofgem to reconsider their refusal of the replacement Uist-Skye subsea cable.

Rural Housing Scotland is working closely with several organisations on Uist to develop community-led affordable housing.  There is an extreme housing crisis on the islands and the ‘Smart Clachan’ housing project would be unlikely to continue if the cable failed and windfarm income ceased for up to 18 months.  We understand the cable is already over 30 years old and in poor condition so waiting until it fails, as the similar Harris-Skye cable did in 2020, would have a devastating impact on an already fragile economy.

Regards

Derek Logie  
Chief Executive  
Rural Housing Scotland