



## Highlands & Islands ENTERPRISE

John Overton  
Renewables Deployment Team  
Department of Trade and Industry  
Bay 2106  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

8 January 2007

Dear John,

### **Joint DTI/Ofgem Consultation on Licensing Offshore Electricity Transmission**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

As you are aware, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and its local partners (Shetland Islands Council, Orkney Islands Council, Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar, Highland Council, Moray Council and Argyll and Bute Councils) have a significant interest in the development of renewables, given the substantial resource that exists across this area. We have previously responded to a number of consultations by the DTI, Ofgem and NGT in relation to grid development and regulation. You will be aware that grid investment and access is critical to the development of the renewables resource across the North of Scotland, and particularly for the islands which are currently critically constrained.

We understand that the BWEA has responded fully to the above consultation and in general we agree with the comments it has made. However, we are unclear about the implications of these proposals on the islands and the proposals to provide new sub sea connections to them. We would be grateful if this could be clarified.

We look forward to seeing the results of the consultation in due course.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Hanton  
Head of Renewables

