



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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26 July 2007

Dear Robert

RE: CONNECTING THE ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above consultation.

As you know, the Scottish Executive places great importance on the development of a diverse renewable energy sector, including offshore wind and marine energy, in which Scotland has the potential to be a world leader. We continue to work closely with the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney and are providing support for several pre-commercial wave and tidal energy projects which will be located around the Scottish islands.

We believe the islands can contribute significantly towards achieving our renewables ambitions but only provided that there is sufficient, and affordable, transmission network capacity allowing projects to connect. While we welcome the flexible approach which Ofgem have taken with the Registered Power Zone scheme on Orkney, it is clear that network extension and reinforcement will be necessary in the longer term if we are to capitalise on the renewables potential of the islands.

The consultation paper proposes some interesting options and we note your initial preference for tendering the right to construct an island connection. While we do not, at this stage, wish to endorse one particular option, we welcome the open discussion which the consultation will encourage and believe that stakeholder engagement will aid the development of more detailed options.

We would therefore be grateful for Ofgem to remain in contact with Renewables and Consents Policy officials as options for connecting the Scottish islands are developed further.

Yours sincerely

JANE MORGAN
Head of Energy & Telecommunications Division