

Mr Matthew Grant
European Electricity Transmission Team
OFGEM
UK

Date: 17th January 2014

Dear Mr Grant

I write with this short submission on behalf of RPS Group to support the proposal to connect onshore and offshore wind energy in Ireland and in the Irish Sea to the UK grid in England and Wales.

As consultants to the Governments of Scotland Ireland and Northern Ireland on the recent seminal ISLES study we recognised the potential for the export of excess energy from the three jurisdictions to England and Wales from offshore renewables and in liaison with DECC drew up the first hybrid regulatory model that will most equitably enable this transfer and interconnection to work. Subsequently a number of onshore developers in Ireland also recognised this new potential.

It is important to ensure that consumers in the receiving jurisdiction are protected from exposure to undue costs or risks while fulfilling the objective of increased energy interconnection and lower carbon infrastructure in accordance with the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Connecting Europe support facility.

It is in my view critical that the timescale for these new developments be fast-tracked to ensure adequate energy capacity in England and Wales post 2020 and to help decarbonise the Western European energy system to the earliest possible timeline.

I trust that you find the above comments of some assistance.

Yours Sincerely



P J Rudden
Group Energy Director - UK and Ireland Infrastructure