

Mr Jon Parker

Future Networks, Ofgem

9 Millbank, London, UK.

SW1P 3GE

[Cap.floor@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:Cap.floor@ofgem.gov.uk)

Jon Parker,

Ofgem proposes and aims to integrate the national markets in the three countries; France, England and Ireland.

Firstly, one obvious point that should be made is that these markets are not equal. Ireland is a small economy with a small population in comparison. How can you bring a balanced and fair market for electricity with these three countries when they are not equal in their consumption/production of energy?

In fact, according to Eurostat figures the top five energy consumers in the EU are – Germany, France, the UK, Italy and Spain – they accounted for almost two thirds of the total usage of the 27 EU member states. In fact, in the last three years energy usage in Ireland dropped by 12 per cent, according to new figures from the European Union's statistical office. The figures released by Eurostat show that Ireland had the second largest drop in energy consumption in the EU between 2008 and 2011. In stark contrast to this our energy prices have risen significantly in Ireland in recent years.

Energy providers blame increased charges imposed by the Commission for Energy Regulation, the wholesale price of gas, the euro exchange rate and the cost of the new electricity interconnector with Britain among the factors. The Eurostat figures also found that Ireland imports almost 89 per cent of its energy, making it one of the most energy dependent countries in the EU.

As Ireland has recent prospects of large oil reserves off its coasts; the idea of electricity integration with Europe looks even less desirable than ever. We at present are destroying our countryside to promote renewable energy that we as a country will not need now or in the future. This has been encouraged by the EU and in particular by England. All of this energy will have to be supported by conventional fossil fuels/ nuclear. None of which are environmentally sound decisions. The destruction that is proposed via interconnectors, electricity transmission systems and all this renewable energy that cannot be independently run and is not for Ireland's usage is absolutely not in Ireland's interest. In fact if Ireland merely retrofits homes with insulation alone, we could further save 1/3 in our energy usage.

The very idea that we should plague our countryside and destroy our environment to provide energy to two markets that are unequally matched with ours makes no sense for Ireland. I totally and wholeheartedly object to these proposed plans for Ireland and believe that these markets will not in any way, shape or form benefit Ireland.