

Dear Mr Borland,

Response to Ofgem Update on the IPA of the Greenlink Interconnector

I would like to comment as follows on the Initial Project Assessment of the Greenlink Interconnector. A reliable and low cost supply of electricity is essential to me in my day-to-day work as a dairy farmer in the South West of Ireland. This has been the norm with excellent reliability and reasonably low costs provided by the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) over the past 60 years.

The advent of the single Irish electricity market, establishment of a separate Transmission Supply Operator and Distribution Supply Operator, together with multiple privatised generating facilities and a Commission for Energy Regulation has done nothing to enhance reliability of supply or cost reduction.

On the contrary, the supply of electricity in Ireland is now subject to an alphabet-soup of agencies bounded by unrealisable Government aspirations on one side and opportunistic and cherry-picking generation investors on the other, all fuelled by an unsustainable REFIT subsidy scheme. The net result is that levies have increased the cost of electricity to my enterprise, and I am becoming increasingly concerned about the reliability of supply as intermittent generation equipment makes more and more inroads to the Irish national generation reserve.

Does OFGEM want the British consumer to be subject to the charade that is the Irish electricity generation industry of 2015?

As you are aware, the Irish renewable electricity generation programme is almost wholly dependent on wind. The Greenlink Interconnector is promoted as a way of exporting low cost wind-generated electricity from Ireland to the United Kingdom. This is scarcely borne out by the fact that despite all this "free" wind energy, Ireland currently has the third highest electricity price in the EU (after Denmark and Germany), while the UK is ninth.

It is patently obvious that the Greenlink Project is simply not economically feasible, and is purely a vehicle for justifying the construction of more and more wind farms in Ireland, and adding more and more REFIT subsidy costs to the retail price of Irish electricity. I cannot see how it will bring any benefits to the British consumer or, for that matter, the Irish consumer.