

Dear Sir/Madam

I have noticed the consultation regarding the possible cable size being suggested from the north of Scotland to Shetland. I believe that a 600MW cable is what is on the table at the moment. I believe this size of cable doesn't even cover the proposed wind farms which are already looking for space on this cable, let alone anything else.

My company Shetland Composites has been involved mainly in the marine renewable industry for nearly 20 years, we are finally seeing the early prototypes scaling up and are now building composite tidal turbines blades up to 5m long of which 3 tidal devices are now up and running in Bluemull Sound in Shetland. We have also repaired and refurbished all the Burradale wind farm blades.

With the oil industry starting to run down its production in the North Sea, thus not being so important to the local economy as it once was. It is of vital importance that our abundant sources of renewable energy is harnessed to avoid the repeat of the fifties and sixties where Shetland's population was in sharp decline before the oil boom. Please bear this in mind when you are considering the cable size, especially as new technologies like marine renewable and floating off shore wind turbines are soon to be proven technologies.

I understand from increasing the the size of the cable from 600MW to 800MW is only an increased cost of about 6%, if this is the case why even stop at 800MW or a 1000MW cable. With Shetland usually being in a different weather/wind pattern from the rest of the UK. The bigger the cable the better to help balance the UK's national grid which has to see a huge increase in renewable energy generation to meet the climate change targets.

Best Regards from windy Shetland