Shetland transmission project: Consultation response on the final needs case and delivery model.

Dear James,

I am a Shetland resident, generator and investor.

I have invested in the Energy Isles wind project in Yell and therefore it is important to my investment that a large enough transmission link is built to ensure that investment is not wasted.

I believe Shetland is in dire need of a transmission link to mainland Scotland. I am concerned a 600MW link is not sufficient and therefore fully support a larger more efficient and economical 800/1000MW link. A larger link will be of much greater benefit to the Shetland islands community and economy.

Shetland has a very high carbon footprint which could be cost effectively decarbonised with a grid connection and renewable generation.

Due to Shetlands outdated power station and geographic isolation electricity generation is currently very expensive and is heavily subsidised by UK consumers.

Shetland has 'world class wind' with capacity factors of >50% and which, due to its geographic separation, tends to generate when windfarms elsewhere in the UK are not.

Shetland has huge potential for tidal, floating offshore as well as onshore wind generation which currently cannot be exploited.

The future generation scenarios presented are unrealistically low. These scenarios should also include other technologies such as wave, tidal, floating offshore wind and future interconnection to Norway. The largest scenario is only 742MW. Currently, in addition to Viking's potential 457MW: there is 49MW and 72MW with planning permission for Mossy Hill and Beaw Field; 200MW planning application submitted for Energy Isles on Yell; 10MW of other projects with planning and 12MW already operating. This totals to 801MW.

The transmission link is vital to the future economy of Shetland, especially as the oil and gas industries are replaced by renewable energy sources. Renewable generation projects on Shetland will hugely benefit the local economy during construction and operation and by the funding from community benefits funds in addition to returns to Shetlanders investing in renewable projects.

I am concerned that high capital costs will create higher transmission charges and make Energy Isles windfarm a less competitive project, putting its viability and our investment at risk. To minimise this risk, Ofgem should ensure that a larger link is built, ensuring that the final design is the most cost effective.

We do not agree with Ofgem's position to approve a 600MW project. Shetland needs a new transmission link which is appropriately sized, economic and efficient. Ofgem should demand the development of the 800MW and 1000MW options.

Ofgem has already rejected a proposal for a 60MW link to connect Shetland to the Scottish grid. The current proposed 600MW link is also too small and a larger link should be developed.

Yours sincerely