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**Shetland Grid Connection**

For the attention of James Norman

Dear James,

I write to you to ask that a larger grid connection link from Shetland be considered, looking at the current applications I can see that there are at least 800MW of potential projects already approved or in planning, the current proposal gives no opportunities for future developments, especially tidal and wave projects.

A 600MW link is not sufficient and therefore we urge a larger more economic and efficient 800 or 1000MW link be established, this larger link will benefit the Shetland Islands community and economy.

Ocean Kinetics are a locally based and owned engineering company working on projects in multiple sectors within Shetland, the split is currently 40% Oil and Gas, 20% Marine, 20% Aquaculture, 15% General Engineering and 5% Renewables, the Oil and Gas sector has already shrunk considerably and will probably all but disappear by 2025 with the downsizing and closing of the Sullom Voe Oil Terminal. A growth in Renewables is essential for our company and Shetland generally, adding capacity to the link will allow new tidal and wave generators to be connected and will give much needed new business as Oil and Gas declines. We currently employ 70 staff plus 30 contractors and have had steady growth over the last 10 years, 20% of our staff are apprentices, trainees or new graduates. The growth of renewables and maximising the capacity of the cable within Shetland is essential for us to maintain the current staff levels and continue with our training programme.

Beyond our own requirements the large grid connection Shetland is required because electricity generation is currently very expensive and is heavily subsidised by nationwide consumers and the diesel station in Lerwick has passed its useful life with high emissions.

The larger link is only marginally more expensive and will provide the most cost-effective solution for the isles and provide the maximum benefit to the UK as a whole.

In summary, Shetland needs a new transmission link which is sufficient for current and future needs, a connection of 800MW to 1000MW should be adopted and not the current 600MW that is being proposed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any clarifications or information.

Yours sincerely

*John Henderson*

Managing Director