

Mareel Fishing Company

Westerhouse

Vatster

Mid Yell

Shetland

ZE2 9BU

31.5.19

Dear Mr Norman,

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

I am writing on behalf of the directors of the Mareel fishing company, I being one of them. We are representing Shetland as a business, residents and investors. We have lived and worked on the island of Yell in Shetland all our lives and we wish to see Shetland thrive for future generations.

We have invested in the Energy Isles wind project in Yell and therefore it is important to our investment that a large enough transmission link is built to ensure that our investment is realised. A 600MW link is not sufficient and therefore we support a larger more economic and efficient 800/1000MW link. A larger link will benefit the Shetland Islands community and economy.

Shetland is in great need of a grid connection to mainland Scotland because we feel that the renewable energy generation potential in Shetland cannot be exploited fully. Shetland has an excellent wind regime with capacity factors of >50% and which, due to its geographic location, tends to generate when other GB windfarms are not generating. Shetland has potential for tidal, floating offshore as well as onshore wind generation, if a larger link is not established no new renewables projects can connect to the current grid, which would be a huge loss not only to Shetland but the whole of the British Isles.

The future generation scenarios presented are unrealistically low. The scenarios should also include other technologies such as tidal, floating offshore wind demonstrators and future interconnection to Norway. The largest scenario is only 742MW and there is already 801MW of onshore wind development in Shetland. In addition to Viking's potential 457MW: there is 49MW and 72MW with planning for Mossy Hill and Beaw Field; 200MW planning application submitted for Energy Isles on Yell; 10MW of other projects with planning and 12MW operating. This totals to 801MW. We believe there could potentially be more than 1000MW of renewable generation operating in Shetland by 2035.

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 benefit the local economy during construction and operation and by the funding from community benefits funds in addition to returns to Shetlanders investing in Shetland renewable projects.

We are 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. Shetland needs a new transmission link which is appropriately sized, economic and efficient. We feel Ofgem should approve the development of 800MW/1000MW or greater option.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Strachan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Strachan', written in a cursive style.

Director

Mareel Fishing Company