



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

James Norman
Ofgem
10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

28 May 2019

Dear James

Submission to the Western Isles Transmission Project Consultation

I would strongly urge Ofgem to reverse its initial proposal to limit transmission capacity for the Western Isles Transmission Project to 450MW.

There is an emerging consensus that we are facing a climate emergency, and that decisions at a local and national level must reflect the task at hand. Indeed, the Committee on Climate Change has said that Britain must meet net-zero emissions by 2050.

We must embrace projects that will assist in helping us meet this target. Clearly, offshore renewable projects have an important role to play, and this is why I believe that Ofgem should support a larger electricity grid connection between the Western Isles and the Scottish mainland. The benefits of connecting more renewable electricity will justify the cost, and the risk of not maximising the potential for this is far greater than the risk of stranded assets, given the level of consensus in favour of decarbonising heat and power across the country.

A 600MW capacity link would offer the best means for realising the potential of renewable energy from the Western Isles. The wind and wave power potential of the Outer Hebrides is second to none, and there is strong support for renewable energy across the Highlands and Islands.

Yours sincerely

Lewis Macdonald

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