

11/06/20

James Norman,

Head of New Transmission Investment,

Ofgem.

Dear Mr Norman,

**Shetland Transmission Link Consultation,**

I would like to object to the Inter-connector cable between Shetland and Mainland Scotland.

This is the latest in a seemingly endless stream of proposals regarding the Windfarm/Convertor Station/Cable. It is clear to me that this Scheme is being pushed through the consents procedures while the Country is preoccupied with the Covid Pandemic.

A large percentage of the Shetland population is against the Scheme which has been hanging over our heads like a cloud for years.

And what is going to be the cost? Any Shetlander will tell you that the Island is covered with a layer of Peat many meters deep in places. Any development would require the costly movement of huge quantities of Peat. Peat which has been proven to be a major Carbon sink.

The Island of Yell has proposed Windfarms, these will have to be connected together with even more undersea Cable.

It has been suggested that Power could be Exported to Offshore Oil Installations. This would be a huge task, given the distance and type of seabed. The Installations will not be there forever, they have a Lifespan. Many are coming to the end of their life. Also this scheme would be at the mercy of the Oil price.

An inter-connector cable would be a huge cost. The area is one of the busiest for Shipping and Fishing in Europe. Tides are very strong with a very rough seabed. The area is fished regularly by Trawlers, Beam Trawlers and Scallopers. It is proposed to cover the Cable, but if a Fishing Boat exposes the Cable, and it is damaged, it would be a huge cost to repair.

The Shetland end of the Cable comes ashore at Weisdale Voe. This will have a damaging effect on the Aquaculture Industry in the area. Weisdale Voe is one of the renowned areas in Shetland for Mussel and Salmon farms.

I think the cost of this project will be huge.

And, now we hear in the Media, of an idea to Power Shetland by an LNG Powerstation. This proposal is being put forward by a Company with a wealth of experience Worldwide. And at a fraction of the cost of the interconnector. Surely this would be the best solution to Shetland and the UK's needs.

Shetland would have a clean reliable Powerstation, with no Destruction to Internationally renowned Peatlands and no disturbance to Aquaculture. This would benefit Tourism as well. And in the present Economic situation, it would benefit the whole of the UK.

In my opinion the project is too Large, Destructive and Expensive.

An LNG Powerstation would be far more cost effective, and leave the Island of Shetland, with its Peatlands, untouched.

Yours Faithfully,