

Dear Sirs

Re the above

I would like to make two points

Your needs case does not appear to address the requirement for Shetland to have a sustainable supply of low carbon electric and links the provision of an HVDC transmission link to the construction of wind farm/s.

You appear to have missed the point. If there is to be significant investment, then meeting the needs of both the Climate Change Act and Scottish Government net zero 2045 commitment should take priority over the commercial requirement of the wind farm investors. Assuming that they will benefit from public subsidy through contract for difference.

I believe you need to approve this transmission link but you do not need to approve any of the proposed wind farms.

My second point is the complete absence of any social analysis of the impact of connecting a previously unconnected community to the "mainland". There is no consideration of the dependance created by this cable on a previously independent community. There is a significant body of academic literature available on the creating new dependencies in remote independent communities which you appear to have overlooked.

Whilst I personally believe you should consent the cable, you do need to give very serious consideration to all the social impact, positive and negative of this action. This work should inform the social mitigation that the owner of the asset puts in place.

The absence of this work seriously compromises your use case and reveals a significant and material gap in your logic.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards