

17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

James Norman  
Head of New Transmission Investment  
OFGEM  
10 South Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
LONDON  
E14 4PU

Dear Sir

**SSEN Application for Interconnector Cable and Wind farm in Shetland**

As a resident of Shetland I wish to make an objection to the proposed Application by SSEN for an Interconnector Cable from mainland Scotland to the Shetland Islands to facilitate the construction of unsustainable and massive wind farms. This is a project totally out of scale with the island's fragile ecosystem and will do irreparable damage to the tourist economy and Shetland's wildlife. Having lived, until recently, in the Weisdale valley I know its unique beauty from first hand experience. I will let others object on health and wealth grounds but for me the real objection, particularly with respect to the Interconnector and proposed Converter Station in Upper Kergord, is the effect on the landscape.

I am a visual artist and have made my home in Shetland since 1991. I have sought to depict these islands in my work that is regularly exhibited in galleries throughout Scotland. A future with 103+ huge wind generators littering these landscapes is utterly depressing and will have an impact on my painting. The beautiful and austere edges and horizons that mark out this place as unique will be ruined for myself and thousands of local people who love this land and the many tourists that visit each year.

I must add that I have been a long-term supporter of wind generation and lobbied for such as a member of the Green Party since the 1970s. However that must be tempered with providing wind power on an appropriate and local scale and not the massive and unnaturally large scale proposed for Shetland. You would find a lot less objection to a project that was aimed at providing enough power for Shetland alone. It is this excessive scale incorporating the Interconnector aimed at exporting power to the rest of the UK that is so objectionable. And the more this project is allowed to continue the more demands it makes and the more damage it does to Shetland. It will do absolutely nothing to benefit the islands other than a few landowners. During the lifespan of this proposed development Shetland's tourist economy will suffer most as will those businesses like my own which thrive on the unique character of the Shetland Islands and its image.

Please reject this application.

I would be grateful for an acknowledgement of receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully