

Dear Ofgem,

I realise that you might not take the time to read this, however as with most things in life I choose to live in hope.

The reason I have this ethos about how I view life, is that I grew up in Shetland, and it's my home.

I returned to Shetland having been away for over 25 years and, although I have lived and worked in many other parts of the world, Shetland has always been home. During my time away, I saw countless beautiful places, but none as beautiful to me as Shetland. There are hundreds of thousands of people who agree with me.

Shetland, its nature, landscape, wildlife, light (and lack of it in winter) make it a unique place to live. When you grow up in such a unique place, you have an inbuilt resilience. You know what it's like to have unforgiving winters, where roads are blocked, roofs blow off buildings and people need to stay indoors and keep safe. You learn to appreciate the summers, when daylight is plentiful and you can get outside and enjoy the natural wonder of our islands. Harsh winters are survived because we live in hope of summer to come.

I, like many others in Shetland, have been living in the harshest and darkest of winters since a few people thought it might be a good idea to cover our home with giant windmills.

People here believe in sustainability. What we don't believe is that our home, our summers and our hope be destroyed in the process of achieving it.

Honesty time. You and I both know that these windmills will destroy Shetland. We've all seen the evidence, and we've seen the images of what our home will look like when it's covered in them. Someone, somewhere however has decided that it's a price worth paying, in order to meet a target.

We are aware that those who gambled on this venture will lose money if this doesn't go ahead, however surely that can't be a reason to go ahead with the destruction? This isn't the "I've started so I'll finish" at the end of a quiz. This is about our small but important part of this planet we all call home.

I'm sure you are already aware, however you must see the irony (possibly madness) in the fact that whilst digging up hundreds of thousands of tonnes of peat to put these windmills up, the government is investing £millions in creating peat areas, as these are huge 'carbon sinks'.

We don't want our home destroyed, yet we've not been permitted a voice, we were not granted a public vote. So here we are, sitting wring our letters to you, pleading, begging, that you who have the power to save our home, will be brave enough to do the right thing and help us.

Without the transmission link, the windmills wont be built. Our home can be saved. YOU have the POWER to do that. Every superhero knows that with great power, comes great responsibility. Please be a superhero to the people, nature and wildlife of Shetland, who all call this home.

Our HOPE is in your hands.

Yours faithfully