

Internal Only

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on your minded to position on the Orkney Transmission Project.

Having been personally involved in this project for well over a decade, I welcome your minded-to position and provide my response to the consultation below.

Revoking the conditional decision you published in 2019

Over the years there have been a raft of consultations, working groups and reports in connection with providing the Islands with additional access to the National Grid. Securing regulatory approval for the proposed new transmission cable has been a challenge and is, in my opinion, 10 years overdue. Our original arguments put forward over the years and particularly in 2018 hold true; many have indeed been reinforced by the recent geopolitical events and the energy crisis. For these reasons, I agree that the conditions set out in your FNC decision published in 2019 are no longer appropriate.

Not to apply any competition models to the project

I agree with the rationale in your minded-to position.

Approve the FNC for the Orkney transmission project under LOTI

Agreed.

Confirming that you do not require a new FNC submission, as you are confident that the existing information can be considered for your final decision on the FNC

Agreed. The project needs to be progressed as soon as possible without further delay.

Assessing the reasonableness of the potential cost increases at the PA stage

Agreed. This would appear to be practical and logical.

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