



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Beatrice Wishart MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Shetland

Mr Michael Matheson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Scottish Government
St. Andrews House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

2 July 2021
Our ref: BW1917

Dear Michael,

Re: Shetland Tariff

You will be aware that tackling fuel poverty is one of my key ambitions as MSP for Shetland. Shetland residents face higher energy costs with the latest statistics showing 31 per cent of Shetland households in fuel poverty, with 22 per cent living in extreme fuel poverty.

This week Shetland Islands Council once again raised the prospect of a Shetland Tariff in light of the Viking Energy Wind Farm (VEWF) coming on stream in 2024. VEWF is predicated to produce more energy than can be used in the islands with energy likely being sold south. Our climate negatively impacts on heating costs yet it is our climate and natural resources that will benefit the country in terms of climate change targets.

Now is the opportune moment to establish a Shetland tariff before the Viking project is complete. I am sure islanders would be very disappointed to have one of the most productive onshore wind farms in the world on their doorstep and gain no benefit as energy passes by en route south. The irony of Shetland having been close to the productive North Sea oil fields for the last fifty years, and contributing substantially to its success with one of Europe's largest oil and gas terminals located here at Sullom Voe, is not lost on those who struggle to heat their homes.

Fuel poverty is a deep routed, long-term issue for Shetland. We can seize the

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moment to be innovative to the benefit of all.

I would appreciate it if you could outline the intent of the Scottish Government regarding a Shetland tariff, and look forward to your response.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beatrice Wishart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Beatrice Wishart MSP