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30th November 2006

Dear Ronke,

Re: Open Letter Consultation on Innovation Funding Initiative and Registered Power Zone Scheme for Distribution Network Operators

The British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to Ofgem's open letter and provides this submission on behalf of the UK wind and marine energy industry.

BWEA was established in 1978 and is the representative body for companies active in the UK wind energy market. Its membership has grown rapidly over recent years and now stands at over 325 companies, representing 98.8% of all grid-connected wind energy now installed.

The UK has a rich variety of renewable energy resource, including 40% Europe's wind resource. Wind energy currently supplies approximately half a million homes in the UK. It is important to support and encourage the growth of the sector and associated benefits.

With direct regard to RPZ, encouraging DNO's to develop innovative and more cost effective ways of connecting and operating generation can only benefit the renewables industry in general. Active management, in particular, is likely to be critical to the development and deployment of marine renewables and would like to prompt an early rollout to peripheral areas with marine renewable potential such as Orkney, Lewis, Islay, Mull and Kintyre in Scotland. If this proposal does not proceed swiftly it could harm the industry's potential in the UK.

With regards IFI, this scheme is of interest to generators, and wind in particular, which could benefit from appropriate R&D activities. This would help understanding of technologies which should allow greater uptake of generation on the grid. Variable technologies, such as wind and wave, could benefit particularly from network control and storage innovation which should lead to improved network utilisation.

The BWEA support both the initiatives as a means of increasing research and development in the network sector which can then have direct beneficial effect on the uptake of new generation.

Yours sincerely,



Graeme Cooper

Head of Grid and Technical Affairs, BWEA

1 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500549>

2 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2167>