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The Office of Utility Regulation,
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2nd November 2008

Dear John

Ref: Buy Back Rate Review

I have read with interest your consultation document on this subject.

The comprehensiveness of its review of all energy sources - beyond those capable of supplying electricity - will be helpful I am sure to all. What a shame the obligation to examine ground source possibilities was not in force for the construction of 'St. Sampson's High School'! It is good to see it being used at Le Friquet and elsewhere.

What a shame that GEL appears to (almost automatically) add 50% to installation costs pertaining in the UK, in its estimate for local equivalents.

I wish to make two points in this letter.

The first regards the operating cost and viability of wind turbine systems. '*Which? Magazine*' has published the results of its trials in the October issue (page 6). Its investigators found a number of problems, but in the area of your concern was the fact that the current used by the inverter exceeded that delivered by the turbine and resulted in a net loss to the householder!

Second, in order to protect electricity customers from subsidising the over-enthusiastic installation of such devices resulting from the ready availability of cash in our affluent island, please use the 'Avoided cost' model.

I agree that you may well see substantial developments in the near future in terms of photo-voltaics, electric vehicles and the storage of electricity, possibly as hydrogen. I have written a 'Viewpoint' for the Guernsey Press which is likely to appear quite soon, and which I attach.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Sincerely

Roy Bisson