

PE1722/B

Liam McArthur MSP submission of 26 June 2019

I understand that the Petitions Committee will be considering the above petition at its meeting tomorrow (27 June). While obviously I do not have a constituency interest in this matter, as someone who was heavily involved in the shaping of the Islands Act 2018, and in particular the provisions around island proofing and island impact assessments, I do have an interest in the principle underlying this petition. I would be concerned if island impact assessments are not being carried out as a matter of course and, from what I understand of this case, an IIA appears entirely appropriate in relation to these proposals.

It perhaps goes without saying that an impact assessment is likely to draw different conclusions in different situations, but it would certainly allow more confidence within the local community that their particular circumstances have been taken properly into consideration. Drawing on the experience in Orkney, I am aware that the introduction of car parking charges at Kirkwall airport last year, saw residents of the outer isles given an exemption, reflecting their particular needs and circumstances. Whether this provides a model for differentiating between different types of car park users, I don't know, but I offer it up by way of example.

I wish the Committee well in its consideration of the petition tomorrow and hope these observations are of some assistance.