

TravelWatch - *Isle of Man*

ARREY TROAILT - ELLAN VANNIN



Representing and promoting the interests of Isle of Man passengers

TravelWatch Delighted at Wind Farm Climbdown

TravelWatch Isle of Man is delighted to learn of the withdrawal of Celtic Array's threat to build wind turbines which would have caused major disruption to vital ferry routes linking the Island with Heysham and Liverpool.

Celtic Array have announced that their withdrawal is due to adverse ground conditions found in the seabed, and the company has therefore handed back its licence to the Crown Estate.

Recent reports in the business press suggest that plans for a series of new offshore wind farms have also been thrown into doubt after the UK Government, Treasury, and National Audit Office clarified the limited amounts of subsidy available for power generation from offshore wind.

TravelWatch wind farms spokesman, John Pennington, said that the passenger watchdog and the Steam Packet Company have spent the last couple of years working hard together on their separate but co-ordinated campaigns regarding the cumulative impact of DONG's Walney Extension and Celtic Array's wind farms.

He added, "We believe that our informed campaigning may well have tipped the balance in Celtic Array's decision to quit. Now the Steam Packet will be able to concentrate on running their shipping services. Also, if the Crown Estate considers reissuing licences, we hope that they will learn from this experience and will revise the boundaries in order to remove any future threat to the Island's vital shipping routes."

Notes for editors:

- TravelWatch wind farm spokesman John Pennington is available to provide further information on 01624 835410 or John.Pennington@manx.net
- A copy of the Crown Estate Media Release is available at <http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/news-and-media/news/2014/crown-estate-agrees-celtic-arrays-decision-to-cease-offshore-wind-development/>
- **TravelWatch ISLE OF MAN** which has over 60 paid up members and more than 200 supporters, represents and promotes the interests of Isle of Man passengers and is part of a network of organisations representing passengers in the UK. This gives us access to a wider network of information and advice on issues of concern to passengers..

Issued by

Dick Clague - on behalf of TravelWatch ISLE OF MAN - 31st July 2014