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Table 4-8: Operations and Maintenance Costs/MW per annum

	Unweighted spend per MW	Weighted spend MW	% of spend
Local	£18,511	£15,181	28.8%
Region/Nation	£29,070	£34,215	65.0%
UK	£47,678	£47,610	90.4%
Total	**£52,952**	**£52,659**	**100.0%**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Case Studies

The contract data from the case studies has been combined with turnover per employee data and GVA to turnover ratios for relevant industries (Table 4-9). On average the case studies spent 43% of this budget on maintenance and 57% on operational costs.

Table 4-9: GVA and Employment Ratios (Operations and Maintenance Phase)

	Turnover per employee (£)	GVA/Turnover	% spend
Maintenance	173,000	0.364	43.4%
Operations	217,000	0.618	56.6%
O&M Total	**198,000**	**0.508**	**100.0%**

Source: ONS, Annual Business Inquiry 2010

As of January 2012 there were 4,512MW in operation[11]. Applying the data from the case studies to the current level of operational capacity provides an estimate of the 2011 turnover in the UK associated with wind farms in the operations and maintenance stage, £173.2 million. Of this, £74.7 million is in the area local to the projects and £111.0 million in the region/nation.

Applying the assumptions set out in Table 4-9 gives level of employment in the UK for wind farm operations and maintenance in 2011 as 1,100, contributing £215 million in GVA.

Table 4-10: Economic Impact of Operations and Maintenance, 2011, per annum

	Jobs	GVA (£m)	Turnover (£m)
Local	318	35.3	68.5
Region/Nation	782	57.2	154.4
UK	1,088	89.3	214.8

4.5 Decommissioning and Repowering Impacts

Given that the operating period for most wind farms is 25 years there are few examples of sites being decommissioned. However, evidence from the case studies suggests that each turbine is anticipated to require work in the order of £60,000 in turnover when they come to be decommissioned.

Many of the sites that have come to the end of their operational period have been repowered. Given that these include some of the earliest deployment of onshore

[11] RenewableUK, Wind Energy Database, 2012