

BY EMAIL

Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Enquiries to: Phil Watson – SCC Strategic
Energy Projects Manager
Email: Phil.watson@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 20th February 2023

Dear Dr Fox,

Electricity Transmission (Compensation) Bill

A Bill, to require proposals to be drawn up for the use of alternative dispute resolution processes, to determine the compensation payable to landowners, in certain cases, where land is acquired for the purposes of electricity transmission.

I am writing to you to express support for this Bill, that you are sponsoring, and which has recently passed its Committee Stage in the House of Commons.

As I am sure you are aware, Suffolk and the wider eastern region are subject to multiple electricity transmission projects, both overhead pylons and buried cables. Given the significant imbalance of power between National Grid and individual landowners, the proposals outlined in the Bill, to provide an effective, accessible, independent, and low-cost mechanism, for the arbitration of disputes between individuals and National Grid, is essential.

Furthermore, as you pointed out during the debate at the committee stage on the 25 January, because of the enormous increase in transmission infrastructure, which is required to be built very quickly, to support the delivery of Net Zero, it is essential that an effective arbitration process is in place.

It is especially heartening to note the words of Graham Stuart the Minister of State, that:

“We believe that the Bill can support the transformation needed so that we can have clean, secure, and resilient energy for the Great British people. Landowners should have access to a clear, fair, affordable, and enforceable system for dispute resolution, and I am pleased to say that we have worked closely with my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset since Second Reading...”

and that:

“We will establish an alternative dispute resolution taskforce to develop the proposals.”

Also,

“We expect to establish the taskforce in 2023.”

In addition, officers of the Council have requested clarification from departmental officials regarding the status of the Bill, and have received the following response:

“The Electricity Transmission (Compensation) Bill relates to compensation disputes when land or rights to access land have been acquired for the build of network infrastructure. This Bill requires

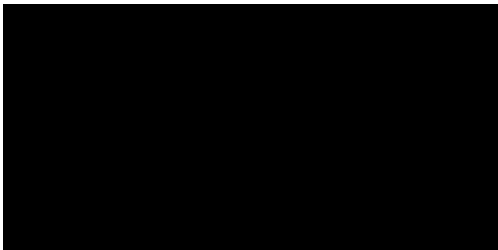
proposals to be drawn up for the use of alternative dispute resolution processes to determine the compensation payable to landowners in certain cases where land is acquired for the build of electricity transmission network infrastructure.

On 25 January 2023, the Bill passed its Committee Stage with government support. We hope that it will continue to progress through Parliament before receiving Royal Assent and becoming law across Great Britain. This Government is committed to ensuring landowners have access to a clear, fair, affordable, and enforceable system for dispute resolution."

Therefore, given your sponsorship of this excellent Bill and the tangible support of the Minister, I am confident that it will become law.

This will give essential reassurance to those landowners in Suffolk, and across the country, who are facing the challenge of hosting net zero infrastructure, on behalf of the nation.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Rout

Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council
and Cabinet Member for Finance and
Environment