

13th February 2025

Dear Mr Rout,

Thank you for your letter to Alice Delahunty, President, National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), regarding our RIIO-T3 plan which was published in December. As the Director responsible for our business plan, Alice has asked that I respond on her behalf.

First of all, I wanted to thank you for taking the time to review our plan and for sharing your reflections. To build our submission we have engaged extensively with stakeholders, collating the input of thousands of local and combined authority representatives, businesses, customers, and members of our impacted communities, and we are committed to continue these engagements moving forwards.

In your letter, you raised the question of delivering community benefits in areas where National Grid are developing projects. As you noted, however, although the UK Government consulted on this last year, we are still awaiting the publication of its formalised guidance. In the absence of this guidance, we have used the previous Government's minded to position to develop our interim proposals for community benefits. This will evolve following the publication of the guidance and we will continue to engage with stakeholders and communities as this progresses.

It goes without saying that we are keen to see the Government's guidance published as soon as possible to provide clarity for developers and communities. We continue to engage with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) on its proposals.

With regards to the purchase of properties in the areas that we are developing our projects, we would recommend that those concerned engage directly with the relevant project teams – I believe you will already be in contact with them but, if not, I am more than happy to provide a list of appropriate contacts. National Grid aims to provide fair and adequate compensation to those directly affected for any disruption caused by the project, should it proceed. Compensation details are determined by statutory guidance based on various factors, including land use, construction impact, and long-term implications. National Grid pays compensation in accordance with the Compensation Code.

Finally, in relation to the points that you made about modifications to National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-5, the Visual Impact Provision and Landscape Enhancement Initiative apply only to existing overhead lines in designated areas. However, whilst our starting presumption, driven by the NPS, is that overhead line is often the most appropriate solution, it does recognise that there will be instances where potential adverse landscape and visual impacts may make it unacceptable in planning terms. As such, the development of new infrastructure will undergo rigorous tests during the optioneering stage to determine how we can best balance the needs of local communities with those of consumers more widely. We will work closely with Ofgem to understand the impact of the changes to NPS EN-5 paragraph 2.11.6 and will continue to engage with communities to ensure they have clarity on the projects taking place within their local areas.

Thank you once again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Salter-Church