



James Cartlidge MP
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk

The Rt Hon. Greg Hands
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

2nd September 2022

Dear Greg,

RE: EAST ANGLIA GREEN CONSULTATION – SURVEY RESULTS

I am writing to make you aware of the most recent correspondence between myself, supported by OffSET MPs, and National Grid. Both letters are enclosed. I would also like to remind you that we are still awaiting replies to letters of 20th May and 25th July to yourself, both signed by multiple MPs in East Anglia.

The important point about my latest letter to the CEO of National Grid is that it contains the results of a survey of over 1,000 people in Suffolk, Essex and Norfolk who all took part in the East Anglia GREEN (EAG) consultation. I undertook the survey because National Grid claimed to me in a meeting of 18th July that their recent consultation on EAG did consider **and** consult on offshore options. I fundamentally disagreed with this assertion based on my experience of the consultation, but said in the Westminster Hall debate on ‘New Pylons in East Anglia’ on the 19th of July – to which you responded - that I would survey local people who took part in the consultation before writing further.

The survey shows the following:

- Of the 1040 people who took part in National Grid's consultation, and responded to the survey, **99.4%** of people disagreed with National Grid's statement that their consultation meaningfully discussed an offshore alternative. Only 5 people out of 1040 agreed.
- Of those 1034 people who disagreed with National Grid's statement, **98.8%** would support a reopening of the consultation.
- Responses were spread between all affected constituencies in East Anglia, with the top five being Harwich & North Essex, South Suffolk, South Norfolk, Bury St Edmunds, and Colchester.

Given that almost no participant agrees with National Grid's central argument for not reopening the EAG consultation – i.e., that they have already consulted on an offshore option – the only feasible outcome is surely to reopen it, with an independent and open-minded report assessing the offshore option in detail, enabling the full facts to be laid before the people of Suffolk, Essex and Norfolk.

Regarding the need for an independent report on offshore options, you will note from National Grid's letter to me of the 5th of August, they suggest that BEIS could potentially conduct this (or ESO, whom I have also written to). I would be grateful for your comments on this point, which I previously raised with you in your Parliamentary surgery of the 19th of July.

Yours sincerely,

James Cartlidge MP

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