



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Energy and Climate

Department for Business, Energy &
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Our ref:
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Dear James,

Thank you for your continued engagement on the topic of energy infrastructure in East Anglia. I know what a live issue this is in your constituency and that it is crucial to reduce the impact of the proposed infrastructure.

I understand you would like a review to be launched regarding the planned electricity transmission infrastructure in East Anglia. However, the offshore wind developers have connection contracts in place with National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) and the Government has no power to force changes in these contracts. ESO can make changes only under very specific circumstances; any attempt to mandate changes to connection contracts at this stage would be open to legal challenge by developers. Regrettably, therefore, I do not think a review is the best approach.

In recognition of the significant volume of infrastructure planned for development in East Anglia in the coming years, the Government set up an Early Opportunities workstream, within the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), to focus on well advanced projects and encourage voluntary coordination to deliver near term benefits.

Officials are working closely with developers and transmission operators in East Anglia to create a range of voluntary options for coordination that could be deliverable by 2030. I believe this route is the best way to reduce onshore energy infrastructure in East Anglia and we have already seen progress.

I would encourage communities to continue to engage with developers on their plans through the consultation process. Developers currently have three non-statutory consultations open in East Anglia:

- North Falls Offshore Wind Farm which will be open until December 9th December.
- National Grid Venture's Eurolink multi-purpose interconnector, published on the 24th October.
- National Grid Electricity Transmission's Sealink bootstrap project, also published on 24th October.


Although these consultations are based on their current point-to-point plans, the developers express their commitment to exploring coordination with one another, seeking to reduce landing points in East Anglia. National Grid Ventures has confirmed it is investigating an alternative brownfield connection point for the Nautilus multi-purpose Interconnector. This is looking at the Isle of Grain in Kent as an alternative option to Friston, Suffolk for this particular project. This is another potential reduction in landing points being planned for the region. This decision will still be subject to consultation.

National Grid Electricity Transmission has recently submitted the initial needs case to Ofgem for East Anglia Green to assess its initial proposal for the project. It is, however, important to note that a coordinated offshore grid will not mean all new transmission infrastructure in a region would be re-routed offshore. The lifetime cost for offshore cabling, as well as high maintenance costs, environmental impacts and security risks mean that the presumption for new energy transmission

infrastructure projects remains onshore. Proposals for new infrastructure will be subject to a stringent planning and review process, that safeguards our transition to net zero and will reduce overall costs for consumers.

Delivering our ambition for 50GW of secure, home-grown offshore wind by 2030 will inevitably require more network infrastructure, both onshore and offshore. I am committed to driving ambitious solutions through this work and will meet with relevant developers to stress the importance of achieving energy infrastructure coordination so as to minimise negative impacts on communities.

I welcome the constructive dialogue between my department and OffSET and look forward to working together with you to bring improvements to the delivery of these projects. I will shortly be meeting with you on this matter so I can better understand your concerns and discuss how we can ensure we minimise the negative impacts and maximise the benefits for your constituents.

Yours sincerely,


Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
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