



Department for
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& Net Zero

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Helen Morgan MP
House of Commons
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Your ref: HM15823

5 November 2024

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your email of 6 August to the Secretary of State on behalf of Oswestry Rural Parish Council in your constituency, regarding energy infrastructure. I am responding as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio.

Given the role of the Secretary of State in determining Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project applications for development consent, the Department cannot comment on specific concerns regarding a proposed infrastructure project to avoid prejudicing any ultimate planning decision. I can assure you that in taking the decision, the Secretary of State will consider a range of factors relevant to any development consent application.

Work is already underway across Government to improve the strategic planning of network infrastructure and reduce the impact on communities. We need to re-wire Great Britain to transport power from new renewable generation to homes and businesses across the country in a transformational way not seen for around sixty years. The National Grid estimate we need to build four times as much new electricity transmission network in the next six years as was built since 1990. The Government is determined that this infrastructure must be delivered strategically and sensitively by the Transmission Owners and developers, using a mix of onshore reinforcements, upgrades to existing technology, offshore transmission cables and, where appropriate, undergrounding.

We want to ensure that the new infrastructure we need to meet our 2030 clean energy targets is designed in a way which reduces visual impact. The work of the National Grid Electricity System Operator to develop the Electricity Transmission Design Principles will support this. In addition, we want to bring communities with us in the transition to net zero, including through the delivery of tangible, local benefits in things that communities want, this will allow local communities to benefit from the proposed new infrastructure in their area.

I appreciate your offer of a meeting. As I hope you will appreciate, both the Secretary of State and I have already heavily committed diaries and so we are unable to accept your kind invitation at this time.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Shanks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end. Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

MICHAEL SHANKS MP
Minister for Energy