



## THE RT HON VICTORIA ATKINS MP

Member of Parliament for Louth and Horncastle

The Rt.Hon. Ed Miliband MP  
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
3-8 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2EG

09 OCT 2024

Dear Ed,

### RE. GRIMSBY TO WALPOLE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

I wish you well in your new role as Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero. I am writing to you regarding National Grid's Grimsby to Walpole proposal which affects my constituency of Louth & Horncastle.

My constituents deserve to be treated fairly. As bill-payers contributing to national energy projects, it is crucial that our region receives fair consideration in transmission method choices.

National Grid has implemented offshore and underground solutions in other parts of the country to mitigate the impact of massive infrastructure development on local communities. I have demanded answers from National Grid representatives about why alternatives to pylons have not been pursued for the Grimsby to Walpole project. My constituents overwhelmingly prefer offshore or underground alternatives to the proposed obtrusive overhead lines.

Importantly, recent studies have shown that underground alternatives can be cost-competitive with traditional overhead lines when considering long-term efficiency and reduced compensation payments, as per the ESO's East Anglia Network Study (March 2024). You will know that the Conservative Manifesto committed to undertake a rapid review into the advantages of alternative network technologies, compared with overhead pylon and consideration of moving to a presumption in favour of undergrounding where cost competitive. This pledge was welcomed by my constituents and even seemed to be supported by the Labour candidate! I therefore urge you to undertake this work as our rural communities deserve this level of care and diligence in protecting their cherished landscape and community.

Lincolnshire should receive the same level of consideration for minimising visual and environmental impact as other regions in the UK. A comprehensive, impartial review of transmission options for this project is not only fair but essential in achieving parity.

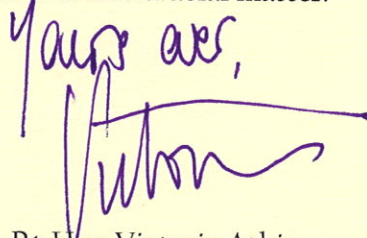
In addition to this, a number of my constituents have raised concerns about the cumulative impact of a number of energy projects which are being proposed for our area. There is a feeling that the way the various consultations for these projects are being run is designed to obfuscate the disruption our area will face.





As a result, my constituents and I urge the Government to halt the progress of these projects and conduct a Cumulative Impact Assessment of what this will mean for Lincolnshire. The government should also demand transparency from National Grid ending their incremental and obfuscatory approach. This includes launching uncoordinated and, at times, contradictory consultations which serve to confuse rather than inform constituents.

I look forward to hearing your response on how your department plans to address these concerns. Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Yours a/c,  


The Rt Hon Victoria Atkins  
Member of Parliament for Louth and Horncastle