

GLYNIS ROBERTSON, IP [REDACTED]
WRITTEN REPRESENTATION
of Oral speech at OFH1 on 5 November

SEA LINK Deadline 1A – 26 November 2025

My name is Glynis Robertson; I am a local resident and a member of SEAS Suffolk Energy Action Solutions. I whole heartedly endorse Fiona Gilmore's SEAS representation.

First, I would like to thank the Examining Authority Panel for holding these face-to-face open hearings here at Snape Maltings and in Kent. It is vital that local communities have the opportunity to engage directly in this process.

1. TWO DCO's NOT ONE

However, I am deeply concerned that the panel only have the Government imposed six months to examine what are effectively **TWO SEPARATE DCOs** - one in Kent and the other here in Suffolk. These are complex proposals, and given the recent request to **increase the Order Limits** in both regions, communities are being deprived of the time and the capacity to respond properly. This amounts to what many would regards as an **UNFAIR PROCESS**.

2. DOUBLE THE NORMAL WORKLOAD

It is my belief, and I hope the panel will agree, that **National Grid Energy Transmission** (NGET) has submitted its DCO application **prematurely**. As a result, the ExA panel, stakeholders and communities are facing **double the normal work load**, both in pre-examination and now in the formal examination phase, with many significant issued still unresolved.

Within a 10mile radius of Suffolk Coastal, we already have **SEVEN major NSIP energy projects**, with **Norwich to Tilbury** entering its own DCO examination shortly. As the Panel will be aware, these projects don't just simply end at consent. Councils are already overstretched dealing with ongoing Sizewell C and Scottish Power **Discharge of Requirement Notices**, some running to dozens of documents, many exceeding 50 pages each. To date **Sizewell C and ScottishPower Renewables three windfarms EA1N, EA2 and EA3** have created a staggering 287 Discharge notices.

On top of local planning applications, the cumulative impact of **Sea Link, Lionlink, new Solar Farms, BESS and Hydrogen storage** will further strain local

authorities. The upcoming Mayoral Combined County Authority for Suffolk and Norfolk, due in May 2026, risks further weakening the planning system - reducing the number of district councils, and experienced local planning officers. Day-to-day pressures on an already limited staff means less engagement with affected Parishes, leading to “tick box” consultations and increased potential for mistakes.

The Government’s drive to meet **2030 targets** has forced both developers and Examining Authority down a rushed and ill-considered path. Without proper evidence and adequate time, a thorough and credible examination cannot be achieved.

3. WHERE IS THE POWER COMING FROM?

The Sealink project itself is **unwarranted**.

The existing **Sizewell to Bramford 400kv pylons** could be **upgraded at a fraction of the costs** saving consumers **over a £1 billion**. US policy is to upgrade before building and the UK should adopt this policy immediately.

Moreover, sufficient power generation will not exist until **2035-2040**, when **Sizewell C may come online – if it ever does**. It would therefore be far more logical to revisit the Sea Link proposal once we know how much power will actually be generated, and to consider connecting directly from the Sizewell 400kV substation not Friston.

4. THE PRESSURES OF 2030

We are in truth, in the midst of a **renewable ‘gold rush’** driven by a falsely imposed **2030 deadline** while more sustainable, long-term solutions such as an **integrated offshore grid** that would serve the Country better, are being overlooked.

Other European nations are already demonstrating the benefits of such coordinated, future proofed system. The UK should pause to review new emerging **ideas, technologies and financing models** rather than locking into short-sighted infrastructure that may soon be obsolete.

For the above reasons, **I urge the panel to NOT recommend Sea Link** a costly white Elephant – financially, environmentally and socially.

Thank you

Glynis Robertson, IP [REDACTED]