

## EAST SUFFOLK WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

Re: Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for Sea Link

The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ2)

Issued on 25 February 2026

ExQ2	Question to:	Question:	Response from ESWMB, dated 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
2GEN18.	Applicant and East Suffolk Water Management Board	<p><b>Schedule 15 - Protective Provisions</b></p> <p>Confirm if bespoke protective provisions will be included for East Suffolk Water Management Board and if so, provide an update on progress in that respect including the likelihood that this will be resolved during the examination.</p>	<p>It is East Suffolk Water Management Board (the Board)'s understanding that the Applicant is <b>not</b> proposing to include bespoke protective provisions for the Board. The Board is satisfied with this position, since the Applicant is also <b>not</b> proposing to disapply sections of the Land Drainage Act 1991 that affect the Board's functions, within the Development Consent Order.</p> <p>Should the Applicant change its position, and propose to disapply the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Board would expect the DCO to include bespoke protective provisions for the Board, or protective provisions for drainage authorities (the Board and the Lead Local Flood Authority). In that case, the Board would wish to obtain its own legal advice on the protective provisions. Given the advanced stage of the examination, it is possible that the Board would not be in a position to finally agree the wording of protective provisions before the end of the examination.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, and further to the Board's Written Representation (REP1-149), the Board's feedback (8<sup>th</sup> December 2025) to the Applicant on the draft Statement of Common Ground (REP1-088), and the Board's feedback at deadline 2 (REP2-049), the Board has discussed concerns with the Applicant (on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026) relating to the Suffolk Drainage Strategy and Article 20 of the DCO. The Board is currently (2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026) awaiting updates from the Applicant on these matters, which remain unresolved.</p>