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**Rule 17 letter - ExA request for further information**

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**From** [REDACTED]  
**Date** Tue 2026-04-28 20:13  
**To** South East Anglia Link <SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Cc** [REDACTED]

[Rule 17 letter - ExA request for further information](#)

Dear Sir/Madam  
By email

**Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission Limited for an order granting development consent for the Sea Link project  
Planning Act 2008 – Section 89  
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 17**

I write in response to the Rule 17 letter and in particular Point 2.5 which refers to my submission dated 11 March 2026.

My submission was made as a result of the significant impact the Sea Link project is having on our farming business. The siting and location of the substation requires the permanent acquisition of 87.48 acres of productive arable land. However, the Project also has a greater impact than simply the land take area and there are wider issues to be addressed, such as the access to the substation, which will sever our largest and most productive field.

The intrusive surveys, which have been having an impact on our business for almost 3 years now, have also resulted in significant disruption to our business. This includes unavoidable and last-minute changes to the cropping rotations, damage incurred to our contract farmers' machinery and the loss of crops and reduced yields due to the lasting impact on the land following the intrusive works.

The long-term impact on, and the use of, the retained land is another concern. The affected land, alongside other land in my ownership in the local area, currently comprises a significant and efficient block of land from a farming perspective. Following the permanent acquisition, this block of land will be significantly reduced, comprising of smaller fields which are less efficient and less desirable.

Looking beyond the permanent acquisition area and the issues which will arise from this, the 30.37 acres of temporary compound also comes with its own issues. Whilst we are still awaiting detailed information on these compounds, we have concerns over the use of the land for a prolonged period and the condition this land will be in once it is handed back to us. It is likely that being out of arable use for this length of time will have a significant impact on its condition, particularly regarding soil health and structure.

Whilst it is understood that this Project is significant and important, there is no doubt that it is going to have a major impact on farming businesses. The loss in area as a result of the permanent acquisition will cause significant disruption to our contract farmer and reduce the efficiency of our business which in the current economic climate, with the pressures facing UK agriculture, is extremely concerning.

I hope that this explanation provides an insight into the repercussions we are facing. We will continue to discuss these fundamental concerns and issues with National Grid and their agents in an attempt to

mitigate the impact.

Regards,  
Struan Robertson

