

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing about Sea Link (EN020026). Although I was not a listed recipient of your 28 August request for further information, I am concerned that recent evidence raises serious questions about the project's cost, need and value for money.

I support the transition to Net Zero, but I am worried about both rising energy bills and the cumulative impact of major energy infrastructure on East Suffolk's communities and environment. It is therefore troubling that Sea Link was presented during the DCO examination at around £1.1 billion, while Ofgem has now assessed it at about £3.2 billion (plus inflation to get to today's prices).

The business case also appears to have changed, particularly after the Nautilus interconnector was moved away from Friston. Ofgem has also identified unresolved technical issues which are likely to require further network works.

I understand that Suffolk Energy Action Solutions has proposed an alternative using upgrades and reconductoring of existing pylon corridors in Suffolk and Kent, at an estimated cost of under £300 million. If that option could meet the network need faster and at a fraction of the cost, it should be independently and transparently assessed before consumers are committed to billions of pounds of spending.

I therefore urge you to require a clear comparison of Sea Link and the SEAS alternative on cost, deliverability, timescale, capacity and environmental impact before any final decision is made. Not doing so would be reckless given the financial and environmental risks faced.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Neill

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