

Dear Secretary of State,

SEA LINK, LIONLINK, AND THE NIGHTMARE FACING EAST SUFFOLK RESIDENTS

I am writing to you today with a profound and mounting sense of dread. Like many people across East Suffolk, I am losing sleep over what these massive, relentless energy projects mean for our homes, our families, and our community.

I am following your letter of 28 August requesting further information on these projects and although I am just a local resident trying to protect my home, I feel utterly compelled to speak out. Recent reports from Ofgem and the National Audit Office (NAO) have confirmed our worst fears: the costs are spiraling out of control, and we are being asked to sacrifice our environment for projects that may not even make sense anymore.

To see Ofgem now value Sea Link at **£3.2 billion**—tripling the wildly unrealistic £1.1 billion figure National Grid threw around during the DCO examination—is terrifying. How were we expected to properly scrutinise a project when the numbers presented to us were so detached from reality? Local groups like SEAS were right all along, yet our community was left fighting in the dark against a corporate juggernaut.

Worse still, the very foundation of Sea Link has crumbled. With the Nautilus interconnector moved away from Friston, that massive export deficit is gone. Why are we still looking at pushing this monstrous project through our countryside when the original need has fundamentally shifted? And how can we ignore the cheaper, sensible alternative of upgrading existing pylon corridors for under £300 million instead of wasting billions?

My anxiety only deepens when it comes to **LionLink**. With nearly half of all homes in Walberswick sitting within 500 meters of the proposed landfall site (G3)—and many right next door—we are facing a living nightmare:

- **24/7 construction, noise, vibration, and light pollution** that will shatter our peace for over two years, including relentless 24-hour HDD drilling.
- **Severe, frightening risks** for our elderly residents, children, and vulnerable neighbours, alongside devastation to the delicate, protected wildlife habitats right on our doorstep.
- **A single bottleneck access road (the B1387)** choked with heavy traffic, creating terrifying emergency evacuation risks for residents and tens of thousands of visitors.
- **The total destruction of our local tourism economy**, threatening the livelihood of businesses and jobs we rely on.

And all for what? Ofgem itself notes that LionLink will operate mainly as an export route to the Netherlands, actually *increasing* our domestic electricity bills. How can that possibly be justified to struggling consumers?

We all want to see a transition to Net Zero, but it feels like our community is being punished simply because our patch of the coast is an easy target on a map. We are terrified that our homes, our health, and our way of life are being traded away for unnecessary, uncoordinated, and exorbitantly expensive infrastructure.

Before it is too late, I beg the Government to step in, listen to the NAO report, and ensure that:

- **Sea Link's cheaper alternative is properly and independently assessed;**
- **LionLink's economic and consumer case is entirely reassessed using current 2026 evidence; and**
- **Coordinated offshore solutions and common sense finally prevail.**

Please, do not let our community be destroyed by rushed, bloated projects that consumers will be paying for through the nose. We are counting on you to protect us.

Yours anxiously,

Roy Strutt

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East Suffolk Resident