

Diana Wright<[REDACTED]>

South East Anglia Link

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From: Diana Wright [REDACTED]

Date: 16 September 2026 at 15:01:23 BST

Dear Secretary of State

SEA LINK DCO

I feel I must write to you after reading the reports from Ofgem and The National Audit Office which raise serious questions about the cost, practicality and sustainability of Sea Link and the on going effect this will have on consumers.

I am not anti net zero or against the government aims to reduce household energy costs. However, I am concerned that the figures just don't add up. The NAO have recognised weaknesses and recommend that Ofgem assess the effectiveness of protecting consumers while supporting the rapid delivery of the network upgrades. Both these points are relevant in the cases of Sea Link and LionLink.

Ofgem has assessed the cost of Sea Link at approximately £3.2 billion - almost 3 times the cost presented during the DCO examination. During the examination SEAS -Suffolk Energy Action Solutions- put forward an alternative plan based on upgrading and recommissioning an existing pylon corridor at an estimated cost of under £300 million, saving consumers almost £3 billion.

LIONLINK

The NAO's review of Sea Link has many relevant points that apply to LionLink, National Grids proposed commercial multipurpose Interconnector. Therefore I feel that there

should be a prompt renewed review of this project. LionLink is not part of the Great Grid Upgrade. It is being carried out by a private company and Ofgem expects it to work mainly as an export route from Great Britain to the Netherlands or the other way round depending on market forces. Either way, this will inevitably increase wholesale electricity prices.

I urge the government to put in place an independent and transparent reassessment of the cost and impact on consumers of LionLink as a result of recent evidence brought to light this year.

As I say, I support offshore wind and the transition to Net Zero but this is not the way. There are cheaper, better coordinated and less environmentally damaging alternatives.

LionLink proposes to come ashore beneath protected marshland that is inhabited by many rare and precious species. There is absolutely no way they will not be affected by the huge levels of noise, vibration and light pollution from the construction work which is predicted to last for at least two years and includes 24/7 HDD drilling for many weeks.

The proposed site is a few hundred metres from housing in a village that depends heavily on tourism. The knock on impact on local businesses and jobs would be devastating. There is only one access road to the village. Traffic disruption will be huge.

Also, this summer there was a devastating heath fire at Dunwich, just miles down the coast. Many of us in the village genuinely fear that, with the prediction of heat wave summers to be almost the norm, a similar thing may well happen on the heathland surrounding the village and could be caused by the drilling operation taking place on tinder dry ground. If the access road into the village had to be closed our only escape route would be by sea.

Please listen to us. We are not NIMBYS. We care about the countryside countywide. There is a better, cheaper way of acquiring net zero that would not impact on the people, the habitats or the infrastructure of our countryside.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely

Diana Wright

