

Dear Secretary of State,

Re Sea Link and LionLink in Suffolk

The two recent important reports from Ofgem and the National Audit Office (NAO) raise serious concerns about the effectiveness, cost and value for money of Sea Link.

The NAO points to weaknesses in the existing system that need to be addressed if the Grid Upgrade is to provide effective service and value for money. The NAO also points to the need for Ofgem to assess the effectiveness of its regulatory approach in protecting consumers while also delivering rapid upgrades to the network. Ofgem has confirmed the cost of Sea Link as at approximately £3.2 billion – not the £1.1 billion that National Grid estimated it at.

During the DCO examination, SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions) identified an alternative based on upgrading and reconductoring existing pylon routes estimated to cost under £300 million – a hugely significant savings.

The NAO's concerns must also lead to renewed scrutiny of LionLink, the proposed commercial interconnector affecting swathes of the Suffolk coast, also proposed by National Grid. In addition to the overall case against LionLink, the latest proposed landfall site, G3, in Walberswick is wholly unsuitable, as were the previous two proposed sites at G1 and G2. These sites are all right in the middle of a village surrounded by homes.

I therefore ask the government to ensure that Sea Link's cheaper alternative is independently assessed; that LionLink's economic and consumer case is reassessed independently using up to date evidence from 2026 and that coordinated offshore solutions along with better use of infrastructure are fully considered.

I welcome the government's commitment to reducing household energy bills but this must be achieved with all the correct and independent information that is available and not rushed in to.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine

Dr Catherine McKisack

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