



Your reference EN020026

Our reference CLARMA/43283-4473

18 September 2026

By email to
SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Sirs

DCO Scheme: National Grid (Sea Link) Order
Our client: Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

Subject: Network Rail Infrastructure Limited's Response to Further Information Request dated 28 August 2026

This Firm is instructed by Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (**NR**) in relation to the application by National Grid Electricity Transmission Limited (NGET) Plc (**Applicant**) in connection with the DCO Scheme and we write in response to the Request for Information dated 28 August 2026.

The Examining Authority has requested, at paragraph 48 of their request, an update on negotiations regarding the protective provisions between NR and the Applicant.

We are still in discussions with the Applicant with regard to the inclusion of NR's standard protective provisions in the draft Order and associated side agreement. Accordingly, we hope to be able to write to the Examining Authority soon to confirm that the side agreement has been entered into and, following this, we will be in a position to write to the Examining Authority to confirm that NR's objection can be withdrawn.

However, should it not be possible for NR and the Applicant to reach an agreement on all matters to its satisfaction, including the inclusion of the Protective Provisions as part of the Order (should the Inspectorate be minded to grant the same), NR must maintain its objection to the DCO.

Further, for the reasons set out in [NR's Closing Representations](#) dated 7 May 2026, [Written Representations](#) dated 21 November 2025, NR's position remains that it requires its standard protective provisions, to be included in the draft Development Consent Order (**Order**). As currently drafted, the Draft Order (document reference number 3.1(J)) does not contain the form of protective provisions considered by NR to sufficiently protect its operational interests and statutory obligations to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the railway.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us on the details below.

Yours faithfully



Direct line



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