

Dear Secretary of State,

With reference to my previous email related to the 'great grid upgrade projects 'SEA LINK and LION LINK this follow-up communication is related to the new important reports from the National Audit Office and Ofcom.

These reports raise questions of great consequence regarding the value for taxpayers money, consumer delivery, environmental issues and the new recently predicted actual costs involved.

The NAO's recent report, value for money, upgrading the electricity transmission network, makes it clear that these major projects are actually not necessary in their present form as they do not provide value for money.

I understand Ofgem assesses Sea Link to cost approximately £3.2 billion, which I believe is three times the cost presented during the DCO examination. One has to wonder whether this does not raise serious concerns about the reliability and transparency of the information presented during the examination. At this time national grid presented an estimated cost of the project, approximately to be £1.1 billion is whereas SEAS predicted that the true cost would be around £3.2 billion.

It would appear that the circumstances requiring the original need for Sea Link itself have changed related to the relocation of the nautilus interconnector and 1,852MW export deficit and any deficit reduced to c352MW.

In the process of the DCO's examination Suffolk energy action solutions identified the alternative of upgrading and reconductoring existing pylon corridors, estimated to cost under £300 million.

Given all the numerous issues involved here, one would urge the government to ensure that Sea Link's less disruptive alternative to vulnerable communities and cheaper is independently and properly assessed . That Lion Link's consumer and economic case is reassessed using the current evidence and that better upgrading of existing infrastructure and coordinated offshore solutions are given very careful consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns,
Yours, sincerely,

Andelphine Mason-Brown ,

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