

From: Tony Bone

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 11:58

To: South East Anglia Link

Subject: Fw: Sea Link (EN020026) – Request for Information

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**The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
c/o: Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team, DESNZ**

Dear Secretary of State,

I understand that on 28 August you requested further information from various parties regarding the Sea Link DCO application. As a resident of Aldeburgh, I am concerned about the questions now being raised about both Sea Link and LionLink, particularly following recent reports from Ofgem and the National Audit Office (NAO).

I support the Government's commitment to Net Zero and to improving Britain's electricity infrastructure. However, at a time when consumers are already facing significant financial pressures, it is essential that major infrastructure projects are genuinely necessary, provide good value for money, and minimise unnecessary impacts on local communities and the environment.

The NAO's recent report on upgrading the electricity transmission network highlights concerns about oversight, cost control and consumer protection. These concerns seem especially relevant to Sea Link. Ofgem now estimates the cost of Sea Link at around £3.2 billion, approximately three times the figure presented by National Grid during the DCO examination. Such a large difference inevitably raises questions about the reliability of the information available to decision-makers and the public during that process.

It is also important to note that alternative proposals were put forward during the examination. Suffolk Energy Action Solutions argued that upgrading and reconductoring existing transmission corridors could potentially meet the same objectives at a fraction of the cost. Given the scale of the difference involved, I believe this option deserves serious consideration before committing consumers to a multi-billion-pound project.

I am equally concerned about LionLink. According to Ofgem's assessment, LionLink is expected primarily to operate as an export route to the Netherlands while potentially increasing electricity prices in Great Britain and providing no new electricity generation capacity. Considering current evidence, I believe the economic and consumer case for LionLink should be reviewed independently rather than relying solely on conclusions reached several years ago.

Beyond cost, both Sea Link and LionLink would have significant local impacts. Construction activity would bring years of disruption through heavy traffic, noise, lighting and environmental disturbance in a particularly sensitive coastal area. East Suffolk is already coping with the substantial impacts associated with the construction of Sizewell C. Many local residents are increasingly concerned about the cumulative effect of multiple large energy projects that appear to be progressing without sufficient coordination.

I fully support offshore wind and the transition to Net Zero. However, public support for that transition depends on confidence that government is challenging unnecessary expenditure, properly assessing alternatives, and ensuring that infrastructure projects are genuinely needed and represent the best available solution.

For these reasons, I urge the Government to reject the current Sea Link DCO application and review whether a significantly lower-cost alternative could achieve the same objectives. I also urge the Government to require a fresh assessment of the economic and consumer case for LionLink based on current evidence. Finally, I encourage continued efforts to develop coordinated offshore transmission solutions and make better use of existing infrastructure wherever possible.

Thank you for considering these views.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Bone

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