**From:** [redacted]
**To:** South East Anglia Link
**Subject:** FW: Re: Your views on Sea Link (Case Ref: PB20421)
**Date:** 17 September 2026 16:23:48

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> You don't often get email from [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk. Learn why this is important

Hello, My MP has directed me to you for this issue, see below.

I look forward to your reply.

Garry Saunders

Sent from my Galaxy

-------- Original message --------
From: [redacted]@parliament.uk>
Date: 17/09/2026 13:03 (GMT+00:00)
To: [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Re: Your views on Sea Link (Case Ref: PB20421)

Dear Garry

Thank you for writing back to me. As I said in my previous correspondence, I am unfortunately not able to raise matters relating to Sea Link in the Department to avoid any perception of a conflict of interest while the quasi-judicial process is ongoing. As such, I am directing constituents to submit their concerns and questions about Sea Link via the Planning Inspectorate's website or by emailing SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Thank you for your understanding, and please do not hesitate to get back in touch if there are any further points you would like to raise. And if you want to keep up to date with what I'm getting up to as your MP, please do sign up to my monthly email newsletter by clicking here.

Best wishes,

Polly Billington MP
**Labour MP for East Thanet**

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From: [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk >
Sent: 27 August 2026 18:12
To: [redacted]@parliament.uk
Subject: Re: Your views on Sea Link (Case Ref: PB20421)

Dear Polly,

Thanks for this clarification though, frankly, it is very depressing.
Coincidentally I received an update from the USA based coastal flooding data. One can search the UK and I have attached to data map for the part of Thanet affected by the Sealink project. This one is based on the assumption that we have taken "sweeping" measures to restrict pollution leading to global heating. As we can see, the area earmarked, even with these measures, will experience floods and tidal threats by 2030, a little more than three years away!

Given your need to recuse yourself perhaps you will, as my MP, pass this on to a responsible person to consider and respond to me. I am aware of the measures Sealink have suggested to raise their structures but it's clear that the flooding threats will inundate and undermine these.

I look forward to your response.

Garry Saunders
Ramsgate
[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@parliament.uk>
**Sent:** 05 August 2026 17:43
**To:** [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>
**Subject:** Your views on Sea Link (Case Ref: PB20421)

Dear Garry,

Thank you for writing to me to about National Grid's proposed Sea Link project.

I know many people locally are concerned about this project, and it is important they are able to make their views known.

However, as you may be aware I was recently appointed as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and am excited to now be the minister responsible for issues including bringing down energy bills and making our energy system fairer. However, as the Department is responsible for making the decision about Sea Link I am unfortunately now restricted from being able to speak publicly about the project in order to protect the integrity of the planning process.

As has always been the case, the decision over whether to approve National Grid's Sea Link project is 'quasi-judicial', meaning it is a legal process where the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, or her planning minister, Baroness Curran, will make a decision about Sea Link in line with national planning rules and the criteria set out in law.

As a minister, it is important to say that I will have no role in that planning process. In addition, because the proposed project impacts our constituency, I have had to formally recuse myself from all discussions and decisions relating to Sea Link to avoid any conflict of interest.

While I completely understand people's frustrations about this, I take my ministerial responsibilities extremely seriously and would not want to do anything that could undermine the integrity of decision-making surrounding such an important local issue.

It is important that people in East Thanet are still able to have their say, and I want to make sure this happens. As such, I am directing constituents to submit their concerns and questions about Sea Link via the Planning Inspectorate's website or by emailing SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Thank you for your understanding, and please do not hesitate to get back in touch if there are any further points you would like to raise. And if you want to keep up to date with what I'm getting up to as your MP, please do sign up to my monthly email newsletter by clicking here.

Best wishes,

Polly Billington MP
**Labour MP for East Thanet**

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