

This submission is submitted on behalf of Affinity Water Limited (“Affinity”) in relation to the proposed Norwich to Tilbury electricity transmission connection (“the Project”)./

Affinity is a water undertaker appointed under the Water Industry Act 1991. Under this appointment, Affinity provides, on average, 900 million litres of water each day to a population of more than 3.6 million people in parts of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Surrey, the London Boroughs of Harrow and Hillingdon and parts of the London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Ealing and Enfield. Affinity also supplies water to the Tendring peninsula in Essex and the Folkestone and Dover areas of Kent./

Affinity is therefore a statutory undertaker for the purposes of sections 127 and 128 of the Electricity Act 1989. If a proposed Development Consent Order (“the DCO”) be made to authorise National Grid Electricity Transmission (“NGET”) to construct, operate and maintain the Project it would permit extensive development within areas where Affinity is responsible for providing water supply services./

Affinity provided detailed submissions in its Relevant Representation submitted on 26 November 2025 (Examination reference [EN020027]) detailing the potential impact on its assets from the DCO and the lack of engagement from NGET in relation to its proposed compulsory acquisition of Affinity’s land.

Affinity is still working with NGET to understand the scope of Affinity’s infrastructure affected by the proposed compulsory acquisition and what land rights NGET wish to acquire. As set out in the Relevant Representation, Affinity jointly owns Ardleigh reservoir, which is situated within the proposed compulsory purchase area, with Anglian Water Services Limited (“Anglian”) and is operated by the Ardleigh Reservoir Committee. It is essential for the supply of water to Affinity’s customers that Ardleigh reservoir remains in operation and is accessible to Affinity at all times. Affinity therefore objects to any proposals that could impact on the operation and access to the reservoir and adjacent water treatment works. A meeting is in the process of being set up between NGET, Affinity and Anglian to discuss the proposals.

To fulfil its statutory duties, Affinity maintains a wide range of apparatus that is critical to the continuing efficacy of its services./ If made, the DCO would authorise the exercise of powers over or near to Affinity’s land and/or has other rights for the purposes of discharging its statutory duties./ Unconstrained exercise of such powers in respect of Affinity’s interests would cause severe detriment to it./

As currently drafted, the standard set of Protective Provisions for the benefit of all statutory undertakers contained in Part 1 of Schedule 16 to the draft DCO, fall short of providing it with the necessary Protective Provisions. Affinity’s undertaking that bespoke Protective Provisions are agreed with NGET. Since submission of the Relevant Representation, Affinity’s legal representatives have continued to engage with NGET in negotiating such bespoke Protective Provisions with Affinity to resolve the concerns raised.

Affinity will continue to engage with NGET to come to an agreement on the bespoke Protective Provisions and any other agreements in relation to Affinity’s concerns as set out above and its Relevant Representation.