



The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

sent-via-email

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets — a shorter, lower-cost connection option worth a closer look

We are writing together as Labour MPs representing constituencies in Lancashire to put forward a suggestion that we believe could strengthen the delivery of the Morgan, Morecambe, and Mooir Vannin offshore wind connections, both for consumers and for a part of Lancashire that stands to gain a great deal from it.

As things stand, these windfarms are expected to connect to the grid via a long onshore cable route into a new substation at Penwortham, near Preston. We believe there is a better option: a new substation at Stanah, instead of Penwortham, in Thornton, sitting around 5 kilometres inland compared with Penwortham's 30 kilometres. Green Book-compliant analysis commissioned by the three local councils sets out the case across three areas and has been sent to your Department.

On cost, it could save up to £520 million in infrastructure spending, supporting the wider ambition to keep bills down for consumers and improving the viability of a project whose economics have come under pressure.

On deliverability, the shorter, largely inland route means a simpler civil engineering task, a faster build, and — unlike the current proposal — a route that has been strongly welcomed rather than contested locally.

And on economic value, it could unlock around 1,100 jobs and as much as £1.7 billion for the local economy out to 2040, much of it flowing into Hillhouse itself, a site with real potential to become a significant employer once it has the energy infrastructure to match.

Lancashire remains one of the few parts of the country without a mayoral devolution settlement, and we are conscious that opportunities of this kind can sometimes struggle to find a single, consistent voice to carry them through Whitehall. It would be a great shame to see this one missed for want of that, which is part of why we are writing to you together.

The case for looking at this properly has, if anything, grown stronger in recent months. EnBW, one of the developers behind the Morgan windfarm, has withdrawn from the project after being unsuccessful



in the latest Contracts for Difference round, citing viability concerns under current conditions. We do not believe this should cause undue delay, but it does make this a sensible moment to confirm that the connection strategy is the right one before matters progress further. We would be grateful if you could consider extending the current DCO decision deadline, due on 14 September, so that the Stanah option can be properly assessed alongside it.

We would also note that this is a good example of the kind of project that can build public support for the net zero transition rather than strain it. Local people are not opposed to offshore wind; they want to see it delivered well, cost-effectively, and with minimal disruption, leaving something tangible behind for the area in return. The Stanah route appears well placed to meet that test, and has attracted consistent local support, in contrast to the current proposal.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you at a convenient time and would be glad to welcome you to Fylde and Wyre should a visit be possible, as the opportunity at Hillhouse is best seen in person.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Beavers MP

**Member of Parliament for Blackpool North
and Fleetwood**

Paul Foster MP

Member of Parliament for South Ribble

Lizzi Collinge MP

**Member of Parliament for Morecambe and
Lunesdale**

Andy MacNae MP

**Member of Parliament for Rossendale and
Darwen**

Maya Ellis MP

Member of Parliament for Ribble Valley

Cat Smith MP

**Member of Parliament for Lancaster and
Wyre**