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Your ref:  
Our ref: ENW  
Email: david.hall@nfu.org.uk  
Direct line: 01695 554900  
Date: 20/09/2022

Dear Sir

**Electricity North West's business plan commitment to improve overhead line safety**

I am writing on behalf of the National Farmers Union in the North West of England to specifically support Electricity North West's proposed business plan commitment to invest in improving overhead line safety in the region.

While I am well aware of the cost of living crisis and soaring energy bills, innovations such as LineSIGHT proposed by Electricity North West to improve safety on the overhead power network should absolutely be funded as part of its plan.

Nationally fallen overhead lines result in around 6 fatalities per year. This new safety measure will monitor overhead lines for low or fallen conductors and should be fully funded as a key part of the business plan.

Such investment, spread across millions of customers in the region would add a tiny fraction to individual bills and certainly represents a reasonably practicable measure to improve public safety. I understand that even with this funding included, Electricity North West's bill to customers will still reduce significantly from April next year so I do not understand why the energy regulator would exclude it from funding.

From a public and farming safety point of view, we should be doing everything we can to keep the network safe and where technology is available to make the network safer, it should be specifically funded and approved by Ofgem.

I hope that you will seriously consider our input as a key stakeholder and I look forward to an update in due course.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Hall'.

David Hall  
**Regional Director**