Good afternoon,

I would like to respond to the consultation concerning the Draft Determinations for the RIIO-ED2 price control.

Specifically, I am concerned by the proposed decision not to replace the Skye-Uist subsea cable before 2028, despite there being an elevated risk of failure.

The SSEN supporting evidence states:

“The existing Skye - South Uist 33 kV subsea cable is 46.17km in length and has been in service for 31 years. The probability of failure is 1.8858 in 2023/24 rising to 6.1268 by the end of ED2, 2028. The Skye - Harris 33 kV subsea cable had a Probability of Failure of 1.3126 and failed in October 2020. This provides a reference of the potential for failure of this critical cable.”

I am therefore concerned that the proposed decision does not take into account the increasing risk posed to the cable to Uist. Among other issues is the importance of community-owned renewable energy projects which rely on this cable to bring energy to market.

I would therefore recommend that the Draft Determination are revised to renew this critical cable before 2028 to avoid a potential disaster, as befell the isles of Lewis and Harris in 2020/2021.

Thank you,

Liam Crouse