



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Ariane Burgess
MSP for the Highlands and Islands Region
The Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh,
EH99 1SP
Ariane.Burgess.MSP@Parliament.Scot

20th August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Scottish Green MSP for the Highlands & Islands region, I am writing in response to Ofgem's consultation on its Draft Determinations for the RIIO-T3 price control period.

The period running from 2026 – 2031 comes at a critical juncture in Scotland's transition to a cleaner, more secure and more affordable energy system, enabling the north of Scotland's pathway to Clean Power 2030 and unlocking high quality, skilled jobs. It's also a critical period for our response to the climate and nature emergencies with rapid decarbonisation of our energy systems critical to meeting our commitments under the Paris climate agreement.

I would urge Ofgem to reconsider SSEN Transmission's sustainability proposals which, if rejected, will result in the loss of £70 million of funding designated for vital nature restoration across the north of Scotland and £140m to deliver low carbon construction. This could have a consequential impact on high quality, nature-based jobs, risk investment, stifle innovation and undermine supply chain confidence.

The climate and nature crises are inextricably linked and SSEN Transmission's proposed investment in Scotland's electricity transmission network must go hand in hand with restoring Scotland's natural environment.

Ofgem's current funding proposal does not support a nature positive future for Scotland, nor does it meet its own biodiversity duty to align with Scottish Government targets of halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and restoring and regenerating biodiversity by 2045.

SSEN's proposed Low Carbon Construction Fund would support the wider UK Industrial Strategy, stimulating low-carbon sectors and giving the supply chain confidence to invest in low carbon solutions and innovations. This will create economic growth and unlock jobs in both the construction and energy sectors, whilst cutting the carbon footprint of electricity network expansion.

While SSEN Transmission's proposals are undoubtedly ambitious, they also meet public expectations when it comes to developing and constructing infrastructure of this scale. Not

delivering best practice nature enhancement risks eroding public trust and support for vital electricity infrastructure delivery.

I agree with SSEN Transmission's approach and would urge Ofgem to think again.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ariane Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'B'.

Ariane Burgess MSP