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Date: 19/03/2026

Dear Richard,

**Approval of the modified Access Rules for the Eleclink interconnector pursuant to Standard Licence Condition 11A of the Electricity Interconnector Licence**

On 16 February 2026, Eleclink Limited ("Eleclink") submitted modified Access Rules for the interconnector<sup>1</sup> to the Authority<sup>2</sup> for approval. This followed an initial submission on 12 November 2025 which was subject to changes required by the Authority.

The modified Access Rules were submitted pursuant to Standard Licence Condition (SLC) 11A of Eleclink's Electricity Interconnector Licence ("the Licence")<sup>3</sup>, which requires Eleclink to maintain 'Access Rules', that set out the terms and conditions for access to, and including use of, the interconnector.

We have decided to approve the modified Access Rules on the basis that we are satisfied the modifications achieve the relevant objectives as required under the Licence<sup>4</sup>. This letter contains a Direction (attached as Annex 1) approving the modified Access Rules.

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<sup>1</sup> Eleclink interconnector is a 1000MW high voltage direct current (HVDC) link, connecting the transmission systems of Great Britain (GB) and France.

<sup>2</sup> The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. Ofgem is the Office of the Authority. The terms "Ofgem", "the Authority", "we" and "us" are used interchangeably in this letter.

<sup>3</sup> The "Electricity Interconnector Licence: Standard Conditions" can be found here: [Electricity licensing \(from October 2025\) - Publications - Ofgem Public Register](#)

<sup>4</sup> The relevant Access Rules objectives are set out in SLC 11A of the Licence and state that the Access Rules shall be transparent, objective, non-discriminatory and compliant with the Regulation (as amended following UK exit from the EU, as detailed below) and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or the Agency.

## The proposed modifications to the Access Rules

The modified Access Rules look to further build upon the Eleclink Access Rules approved by Ofgem on 6 December 2024<sup>5</sup> by introducing the following amendments:

1. *Improved flexibility of Day-Ahead and Intraday timings for Auctions and Nominations.*
  - 1.1. Eleclink proposes to remove existing information contained within the Access Rules relating to Auction and Nomination Gate timings, and will instead publish this information within Eleclink's standalone 'Auction Reference Guide' document. The 'Auction Reference Guide' document will sit alongside Eleclink's Access Rules on Eleclink's website.
  - 1.2. Under Eleclink's proposal, the Auction and Nomination timetables may be amended within a defined framework, including a limit of no more than three amendments to the Auction Reference Guide per calendar year. The proposed modifications set out a process for making such amendments, distinguishing between changes that may be made through a streamlined process if they fall within defined parameters, and changes that require a fuller process, including consultation and a defined role of the Authority, where the changes fall outside these parameters.
  - 1.3. Eleclink notes that this approach provides the necessary flexibility to adapt Auction and Nomination Gate timings to evolving market conditions while ensuring that any changes remain transparent and predictable for market participants. Eleclink further notes that sufficient advance notice will be given before changes take effect and that all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that persons who may have a direct interest in the Auction Reference Guide are allowed to make representations prior to any changes.
  
2. *Addition of a new clause detailing the interaction between the Helix nomination platform and participants' systems.*
  - 2.1. Eleclink proposes to include a clause within the Access Rules on the interaction between nomination platform and participants' systems.
  - 2.2. Eleclink propose to make this change in line with the disclaimer currently displayed on their new Helix nomination platform, which was launched in 2025.
  
3. *Modifications to ensure alignment with JAO's EU harmonised allocation rules.*
  - 3.1. Eleclink proposes modifications to ensure alignment with the latest version of JAO's EU harmonised allocation rules for long-term transmission rights.

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<sup>5</sup> The decision letter on the Eleclink Access Rules, approved by Ofgem on 6 December 2024 can be accessed here: [Approval of the Access Rules and Charging Methodology submitted by Eleclink pursuant to Standard License \(SLC\) 11A of the electricity interconnector license: 2024 | Ofgem](#)

- 3.2. The modifications Eleclink propose as part of this alignment includes administrative changes to customer Participation Agreements and Bank guarantees.
  - 3.3. Eleclink, as part of ensuring alignment with JAO's EU harmonised allocation rules, propose to remove 'Fallback Auctions' within the Access Rules, as this is a process no longer used by JAO.
4. *Modification of company name spelling and new company logo.*
- 4.1. Eleclink proposes to update the spelling of their company name within the Access Rules document, and likewise to insert their new company logo.
  - 4.2. This modification seeks to change the company spelling within the Access Rules from 'Eleclink' to 'Eleclink'.
  - 4.3. This modification follows a change to Eleclink's branding in July 2025.

In accordance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework, Eleclink conducted a public consultation<sup>6</sup> on the Access Rules from 11 September 2025 to 10 October 2025.

Eleclink received three (3) written responses on the modified Access Rules. The respondents either supported the proposed changes to the Access Rules or expressed no direct opinion. No opposition was given by any participant regarding any proposal.

1. *Improved flexibility of Day-Ahead and Intraday timings for Auctions and Nominations.*

- 1.1. One respondent expressed support for this proposal, one respondent provided comments on the proposal without expressing direct support or opposition, and one respondent provided no comment.
- 1.2. The respondent who supported the proposal noted that introducing flexibility to amend Auction and Nomination timings could be beneficial for market participants. This respondent advised, however, that market participants should be given sufficient notice prior to any changes being made. Additionally, the respondent raised the possibility of consulting with market participants on proposed new timings for Auctions and Nominations, thereby allowing market participants to provide a view on the best options.
- 1.3. Another respondent, expressing no direct support or opposition to the proposal, advised that market participants should be given sufficient notice ahead of any changes to the Auction and Nomination timings. The respondent likewise noted that changes to nomination timings should consider any interaction with other Auction deadlines. Additionally, the respondent asked if, prior to the implementation of proposed timings, Eleclink would accept market feedback.

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<sup>6</sup> Eleclink Limited's public consultation on the 2025 modified Eleclink Access Rules can be found at: [Public Consultation – Eleclink](#)

- 1.4. Eleclink responded to this consultation feedback by acknowledging the points made on consulting market participants and ensuring sufficient notice is provided prior to the implementation of any future changes. Eleclink further stated that the awareness of and engagement with both existing and future customers regarding any future changes is an area of key importance for the company. Additionally, Eleclink stated they would continue to engage with JAO to ensure that due consideration is given for Auctions taking place on other borders.
2. *Addition of a new clause detailing the interaction between the Helix nomination platform and participants' systems.*
  - 2.1. One respondent expressed support for this proposal, while the remaining two respondents did not comment.
  - 2.2. One respondent expressed support for the proposal, stating they agreed with the general changes made reflecting the change in nomination platform.
  - 2.3. Eleclink did not make further changes or comments in response to this feedback.
3. *Modifications to ensure alignment with JAO's EU harmonised allocation rules.*
  - 3.1. One respondent specifically endorsed this change while the other two respondents did not comment.
  - 3.2. The respondent who endorsed this modification also proposed that the latest changes to the Harmonised Allocation Rules (HAR), approved by ACER on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, should also be incorporated. The respondent also suggested Eleclink retain the unit of the Bid Price and Marginal price in EUR/MWh, while noting that this will not apply to all markets. The respondent likewise requested the removal of Fallback Auctions for the Day-Ahead Timeframe, as this process is no longer used by JAO, noting that this has been requested on other interconnectors. Finally, the respondent sought clarification on the use of the term "contestation period" within Eleclink's Access Rules, enquiring whether it refers to the period during which Registered Participants can contest, or if it refers to the entire timeframe, including JAO's time to decide on the contestation.
  - 3.3. Eleclink responded to this consultation feedback by agreeing with the suggestions to incorporate the latest HAR changes to ensure maximum possible consistency between borders. Eleclink likewise agreed to remove the Fallback Auctions process. Eleclink confirmed that, following a bilateral discussion with JAO, the contestation period includes JAO's time to decide on the contestation, as currently defined in Eleclink's Access Rules.

#### 4. *Modification of company name spelling and new company logo.*

- 4.1. One respondent expressed support for this proposal, while the remaining two respondents did not comment.
- 4.2. The respondent who expressed support for the proposal noted their agreement with the general changes made to reflect the change in company name.
- 4.3. Eleclink did not make further changes or comments in response to this feedback.

#### Regulatory framework

SLC 11A of the Licence<sup>7</sup> introduces relevant Access Rules objectives, against which the Authority assesses the Access Rules and any proposed modifications. The relevant objectives are that the Access Rules shall be transparent, objective, non-discriminatory and compliant with Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity (recast following the UK's exit from the EU) (the Electricity Regulation) and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators retained following the UK's exit from the EU.

#### **The Authority's Decision**

We have reviewed the modified Access Rules submitted to Ofgem on 16 February 2026 (this followed an initial submission on 12 November 2025 which was subject to changes required by the Authority) and have considered the responses to Eleclink's consultation. We have concluded that the proposed changes meet the relevant Access Rules objectives for the following reasons:

##### 1. *Improved flexibility of Day-Ahead and Intraday timings for Auctions and Nominations.*

- 1.1. We consider that the modification proposed by Eleclink is aligned with the Access Rules objectives. In particular, the proposal to move the Auction and Nomination schedule from the Access Rules into a standalone Auction Reference Guide, appropriately referenced within and published alongside the Access Rules on Eleclink's website, represents a transparent and accessible approach. Separating the schedule into a standalone document improves the accessibility of this information for market participants and supports clearer presentation of Auction and Nomination Gate timings.
- 1.2. We also note that the modified Access Rules include clearly defined parameters that govern the extent to which Eleclink may make streamlined changes to the Auction

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<sup>7</sup> The "Electricity Interconnector Licence: Standard Conditions" can be found here: [Electricity licensing \(from October 2025\) - Publications - Ofgem Public Register](#)

Reference Guide. These parameters provide predictability for market participants and set appropriate boundaries around the flexibility proposed by Eleclink. Within these parameters, changes to the Auction Reference Guide may be made subject to at least 28 days' notice, with Eleclink taking all reasonable steps to allow interested persons to make representations before changes take effect.

- 1.3. Where proposed amendments fall outside the defined parameters, the Access Rules set out a fuller amendment process. This process includes public consultation, submission of an Amendment Notice to the Authority, and a defined role of the Authority which includes the ability for the Authority to temporarily suspend amendments where concerns arise. The minimum 28-day notice period applies in all cases.
  - 1.4. With these governance measures embedded directly into the Access Rules, the Authority considers that the modifications align with the Access Rules objectives by strengthening transparency and ensuring clear and proportionate oversight of changes to the Auction Reference Guide, while still enabling flexibility to adapt to market conditions in a timely manner.
2. Addition of a new clause detailing the interaction between the Helix nomination platform and participants' systems.
    - 2.1. We consider that this modification complies with the Access Rules objectives. The new clauses provide clear guidance on how the Helix platform interacts with participants' systems and sets out the relevant disclaimers. This improves the usability and transparency of the rules.
    - 2.2. In particular, the rules now specify that Eleclink may set communication protocols and standards where reasonably required, and that participants remain responsible for securing outbound communications from the Nomination Platform. This provides clarity and ensures that responsibilities are clearly communicated.
3. *Modifications to ensure alignment with JAO's EU harmonised allocation rules.*
    - 3.1. We consider that this modification complies with the Access Rules objectives. The changes ensure alignment with the latest version of JAO's harmonised allocation rules for long-term transmission rights and provide market participants with clear and consistent rules that are harmonised across European interconnectors.
    - 3.2. Furthermore, by removing outdated processes like the Fallback Auctions and updating participation agreements and bank guarantee requirements, the changes ensure that the Access Rules remain accurate and free from redundant or legacy elements that could undermine clarity and transparency.

4. *Modification of company name spelling and new company logo.*

- 4.1. We consider that this modification complies with the Access Rules objectives. The change ensures that all references to the company name and branding are consistent across the Access Rules and associated documentation.

In making our decision we have also closely cooperated with CRE, the French regulatory authority, to ensure we make consistent regulatory decisions.

The Authority approves the modified Access Rules on the basis that it meets the relevant Access Rules objectives set out in SLC 11A(4) of the Licence.

The direction relating to the approval of the modified Access Rules and, issued in accordance with SLC 11A(13) of the Licence, can be found in Annex 1 of this letter.

**Next steps**

*Publication of the modified Access Rules*

In accordance with SLC 11A(14) of the Licence, Eleclink is required to publish (at least on its website) the approved Access Rules for a period of 28 days prior to the Access Rules coming into effect (the Publication Period), unless the Authority directs otherwise.

Ofgem intends to monitor and keep under close review the practical impacts of the changes that are being made by Eleclink, with cooperation with CRE where necessary. As a reminder for future submissions, Eleclink is obliged to comply with any direction from Ofgem to amend its proposed modified Access Rules for the purpose of meeting the relevant Access Rules objectives in accordance with SLC 11A(12). In addition, Ofgem may seek to utilise its powers under paragraph 9 of SLC 11A if it sees fit to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Mo Rahee

**Head of Electricity Interconnector Market Arrangements, Energy Systems Management & Security**

## **ANNEX 1**

### **Direction issued to Eleclink Limited pursuant to paragraph 13 of Standard Licence Condition 11A (Approval of terms for access to the licensee's interconnector) of its Electricity Interconnector Licence**

1. This Direction is issued by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the "Authority") pursuant to paragraph 13 of Standard Licence Condition 11A of the Electricity Interconnector Licence (the "Licence") granted or treated as granted under section 6(1)(e) of the Electricity Act 1989 (the "Act") to Eleclink Limited (the "Licensee") in relation to the Eleclink interconnector.
2. Standard Licence Condition 11A, paragraph 4, requires that the Access Rules must be transparent, objective, non-discriminatory and compliant with the Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/943 on conditions for access to the network for cross border exchanges in electricity, as amended following the UK's exit from the EU) and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators retained following the UK's exit from the EU (collectively "the relevant Access Rules objectives").
3. Standard Licence Condition 11A, paragraph 8, requires that the Licensee reviews its Access Rules at least once in each calendar year and makes such modifications to the Access Rules as may be requisite for the purpose of ensuring that the Access Rules better achieve the relevant Access Rules objectives.
4. Standard Licence Condition 11A, paragraph 10, requires the Licensee to take all reasonable steps to ensure that all persons, including those in Member States that may have a direct interest in the Access Rules, are consulted and allowed a period of not less than 28 days within which to make written representations. The Licensee must also furnish to the Authority a report setting out certain information, including the terms originally proposed for the modification, the representations, if any, made by interested persons and any change in the terms of the modification intended as a consequence of such representations.
5. In accordance with Standard Licence Condition 11A, paragraph 10, on 16 February 2026, the Licensee furnished the Authority with a report setting out the Licensee's proposed modifications to the Access Rules (the "modified Access Rules").

6. After careful consideration of the report and the responses to the public consultation and after consulting and closely cooperating with the French regulatory authority, the Authority has decided that the Licensee's proposed modified Access Rules meet the relevant Access Rules objectives for the reasons set out in the letter accompanying this Direction.
7. Standard Licence Condition 11A, paragraph 14 requires that, unless the Authority directs otherwise, the modified Access Rules shall be published 28 days prior to coming into effect. The Authority considers that it is important to ensure that the modified Access Rules come into effect as soon as possible on the basis of facilitating efficient cross border trade.
8. The Authority therefore hereby directs that:
  - a) pursuant to paragraph 13 of Standard Licence Condition 11A of the Licence, the Licensee's modified Access Rules are approved; and
  - b) pursuant to paragraph 14 of Standard Licence Condition 11A of the Licence, that the modified Access Rules come into effect when the Licensee publishes them on its website.
9. This Direction shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Authority may revoke or vary the Direction in writing upon reasonable notice.
10. This Direction constitutes notice of the Authority's reasons for the decision pursuant to section 49A of the Act. Copies of the documents mentioned in this Direction can be found on the Ofgem website ([www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk)).

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Mo Rahee

**Head of Electricity Interconnector Market Arrangements, Energy Systems Management & Security**

**Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose by the Authority on 11 February 2026**