



# Gamesa Energy UK

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*By email to Mark.Copley@Ofgem.gov.uk*

Dear Mr. Copley

## **Access Reform in Electricity Transmission – Working Group Report and Next Steps**

Gamesa Energy UK (GEUK) welcomes the report by the Access Reform Options Group and the opportunity to respond to the issues raised.

GEUK believes that the current method and timescale for grid connection, especially in Scotland, are not sufficient to meet the growing demands from the renewable generation industries. However, there are some issues with the currently proposed methodology set out by National Grid that seem to address the problems occurring as a result of the surge in grid connection applications.

GEUK fully endorses the response made by the British Wind Energy Association to this consultation but wishes to add the following.

### Timescales and Planning

GEUK believes that the timescale to gain an offer for connection to the grid is too long and, with the increased time required to gain the offer, that this brings further risks for projects in their infancy with regard to seeking planning permission. A simple resolution to this would be a requirement for projects to have secured planning permission before grid connection applications can be made. This approach would have to include guaranteed access to the grid, if it is to work in practice. With a planning permission, the specifics of a proposed site would be more "concrete", allowing the grid application to be more complete, with a defined layout and maximum power generation known. This in turn would lead to a more efficient system for securing connection offers.

### Local Costs

The method for charging for sole user costs, which in particular involve the costs associated with local works, is fair and logical. If a proposed site invokes local works then it is fair that a developer meets the costs associated with that connection.

GEUK would like to thank you for the opportunity to express its views on the report.

Yours sincerely

**Ben Pollard, Construction Manager**  
For and on behalf of Gamesa Energy UK