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Open letter consultation on the way forward for the next electricity distribution price control review – RIIO-ED1

The Campaign for National Parks (CNP) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the open letter consultation. CNP is the independent charity that inspires people to look after and enjoy National Parks.

CNP supports the suggested primary output category of using a stakeholder-based approach to visual amenity in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (although the output category should include the word *and* not *or*).

We agree that the undergrounding mechanism could remain largely unchanged, in view of the direct and measurable public benefits that it has delivered. The RIIO-ED1 process should, however, consider how the uptake of the scheme might be improved and its benefits increased.

For example, the scheme could be used to help to underground potentially intrusive new lines by funding the difference between the cost of overhead provision and undergrounding. Also, we have previously suggested that a flexible approach is needed on lines close to the boundary of designated areas where these would have a serious impact on the landscape setting; in such cases the location of a line just outside the designated area's boundary should not necessarily preclude it from being covered by the scheme. We would welcome this matter being reconsidered by Ofgem through discussion in the environmental working group.

We hope that this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Chambers
Deputy Chief Executive