

Anna Rossington
Head of RIIO-ED1
Ofgem
9 Millbank
London
SW1P 3GE

2 August 2013

Dear Anna

RIIO-ED1: Electricity Distribution Networks Operators' (DNOs) business plans - publication, views and next steps (Ref: 111/13)

On 1 July Ofgem published an open letter to generators, suppliers, network companies, consumers and their representatives, the sustainable development community, and other interested parties inviting comments upon the business plans published by the electricity distribution network operators (DNOs) in accordance with the RIIO-ED1 price control review.

The open letter sets out a number of questions to which Ofgem invites responses and it is clear from these questions that this consultation is - quite properly - directed towards stakeholders whose interests may be affected by the plans put forward by the DNOs.

Having carefully reviewed the questions set out in the open letter, we do not think that it would be appropriate for us to respond in our capacity as a DNO to a consultation that invites respondents to say what they think about the business plan that we have proposed. We have had our chance to put forward and to justify our proposals; it is now for others to say whether they support our plan, whether they think that it is well-justified and whether it takes into account the views that they expressed to us through our extensive stakeholder engagement. We have already set out in section 6 of our stakeholder facing document *A guide to our plan* the evidence of stakeholder support for our proposals. Following the publication of our plan, we invited stakeholders to briefings to enable them to better understand any aspect of our plan in which they had an interest and we have urged stakeholders to respond to Ofgem's open letter.

In our view, Ofgem should be pleased to see that the RIIO process has considerably improved the transparency of the business plans that DNOs propose at price control reviews. We hope that this improved transparency will be reflected in the responses that stakeholders provide to Ofgem's open letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John France'.

John France
Regulation Director

NORTHERN POWERGRID

is the trading name of

Northern Powergrid (Northeast) Limited (Registered No: 2906593) and Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc (Registered No: 4112320)

Registered Office: Lloyds Court, 78 Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6AF. Registered in England and Wales.

If you would like an audio copy of this letter, a copy in large type, Braille or another language, please call 0800 169 7602