

To whom it may concern:

I am an Executive Director of Green Issues Communiqué and I am writing in support of Ofgem's decision to consider fast tracking Western Power Distribution's business plan.

As a company specialising in consultation, we have supported Western Power Distribution's stakeholder engagement programme around the current RIIO.ED1 price review since 2010. In fact, we have worked with the company on its external engagement programmes since 2008.

As a company we have worked on hundreds of consultations for many different clients over the past decade and I can fully endorse the fact that WPD's approach is one of the most thorough, transparent and comprehensive that we have come across. The company is enormously committed culturally to consultation and its programmes have the active participation of the top layer of management at the company.

Each element of the current plan has been tested and re-tested with a wide group of stakeholders in facilitated workshops. In this RIIO round WPD has hosted 4 rounds of consultation, each round involving up to 6 regional events and approximately 200-300 stakeholders. Stakeholders are carefully identified and recruited to ensure that there is a balance of interests at the stakeholder events: attendees include local and parish councillors, advice organisations, charities, businesses, customers, local authority officers, emergency services to name just some.

Not only that but stakeholders generally praise the workshops in their evaluation forms as they feel there is genuine debate and a genuine opportunity for their views to inform the evolving plan. WPD carefully ensures that feedback and the views of a stakeholder group are fed back into the planning process and are published on its web site – it is a continuing, on-going dialogue.

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Executive Director

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