



**Friends of the Lake District**  
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Mr Gareth Atkins  
Ofgem  
9, Millbank  
London  
SWIP 3GE

Dear Mr Atkins

### **Consultation on Ofgem Forward Work Programme 2014-2015**

Friends of the Lake District (FLD) is a registered charity with more than 6,000 members. We represent the Campaign to Protect Rural England in Cumbria, and are a member of the Campaign for National Parks. Issues relating to the overhead wires and the telecommunications industry have featured throughout our history. Recently, we have been campaigning more actively to reduce the visual impact of all overhead wires on the landscape.

It is hard for us to comment on this consultation in terms of policy, budget, deliverables or key performance indicators because, to our knowledge, there is no direct reference in the document or its appendices to undergrounding which is our area of interest. In Chapter 3 Promoting Sustainability, under key projects planned for 2014-2015, you state that "RIIO-ED1 price control will include a number of environmental and social outputs which we will fund network companies to deliver." The outputs are not listed or examples given but we believe that the the undergrounding allowance scheme by Distribution Network Operators is one such output. We appreciate that this is short document and that there are many aspects to Ofgem's work to be covered in an annual work programme. None the less we think that it is a pity that there is no direct reference to undergrounding as schemes are welcomed by communities, have a positive impact on protected landscapes in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Nature Beauty and arise from excellent partnership working between electricity companies and environmental organisations.

We look forward to seeing direct reference to undergrounding in future forward work programmes of Ofgem.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda McCleery  
Ovehead Wires Project Office



