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Dear Olivia

Quicker and more efficient distribution connections consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your consultation on options to enable quicker and more efficient distribution connections.

The Energy Networks Association (ENA) has also responded to this consultation. Please consider the ENA response to be part of Electricity North West's response.

Additionally, we note that some customers tell us that they find reinforcement costs associated with new connections prohibitively expensive and that they believe options should be explored to reduce the reinforcement costs funded by connecting customers. We do not believe that any of the scenarios proposed in your consultation address this concern.

We recognise that any decision to change the connections funding boundary needs to be very carefully considered. In particular, it must always be remembered that the cost of the connection must be borne by someone and any decision to change the connections boundary should be made in a holistic way that also takes account of the corresponding increase in costs for DUoS customers. Any review should also consider the role that reinforcement charges have in providing a price signal to promote efficient network utilisation. Nonetheless, if there is evidence that the cost of the reinforcement element of connection projects may be slowing potential economic growth or delaying the move to a low carbon economy it would seem appropriate to also consider and consult on further 'scenarios' that could address this.

If you have any questions regarding our response please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Walls
Head of Economic Regulation