



Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

To all interested stakeholders

Direct Dial: 020 7901 7106
Email: Geoffrey.Randall@ofgem.gov.uk

12 August 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Response to our consultation on SHE Transmission's proposed Visual Impact of Scottish Transmission Assets policy

In the current transmission price control, RIIO-T1, we introduced a policy for the electricity transmission owners to reduce the visual impact of existing infrastructure in national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty and national scenic areas.¹ Under this initiative, a transmission owner can ask for funding for projects to reduce the visual impact of transmission infrastructure in protected areas. However, before it can ask us to approve funding for a specific project, it must have a policy on how it will work with stakeholders to identify and prioritise projects that will yield visual improvements.

SHE Transmission submitted its proposed Visual Impact of Scottish Transmission Assets (VISTA) policy to us in February 2016. We assessed this against the requirements in its electricity transmission licence and consulted on our assessment in May 2016.²

In our consultation we said that we consider the proposed VISTA policy meets the requirements set out in Special Condition 6G ("Mitigating the impact of Pre-existing Transmission Infrastructure on the visual amenity of Designated Areas") of the licence.³ We also said that we think the implementation of the policy will help ensure transparency on how SHE Transmission and its stakeholders have selected and prioritised projects, and also ensure that projects under the scheme offer benefits and value for money for consumers.

We didn't receive any responses to our consultation. As stakeholders have not raised any concerns about the VISTA policy, we are not directing any changes to it. We think it is in consumers' interests for SHE Transmission to implement it.

Yours faithfully,

Geoffrey Randall
Head of RIIO, Electricity Transmission

¹ National parks are designated in Scotland, England and Wales. Areas of outstanding natural beauty are designated in England and Wales, and national scenic areas are designated in Scotland.

² A copy of our consultation letter is available at: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2016/05/consultation_on_our_assessment_of_she_transmissions_proposed_visual_impact_of_scottish_transmission_assets_policy_0.pdf

³ SHE Transmission's electricity transmission licence is available from: <https://epr.ofgem.gov.uk>