

Landscape Enhancement Initiative
Ofgem Consultation Response

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Dear Anna,

Determination on Enhancing Pre-existing Infrastructure outputs and allowed expenditure adjustment within National Grid Electricity Transmission's RIIO ET1 price control (electricity transmission licence special condition 6G)

We welcome the determination by Ofgem to fund the requested costs for the three projects in: High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, North York Moors National Park and Peak District National Park, and the costs of developing and operating the project for the allowed expenditure totalling £528,000 (2016/17 prices). We agree with the proposed licence drafting for Round 1. This is a great opportunity to provide localised enhancement schemes in designated areas with existing overhead transmission lines.

The Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) was developed in conjunction with stakeholders from designated areas and is championed by the Stakeholder Advisory Group. The first round of LEI was launched in May 2016 and aims to use part of the Ofgem allowance to deliver localised improvement projects to enhance the quality of the designated landscapes. This initiative will allow the first positive outcomes from the Visual Impact Provision project to start to be delivered within the year.

There has been a robust assessment process for the LEI schemes. The projects have been reviewed by a landscape advisor and grants officer and have been approved by an independent panel with representatives from Cadw, Historic England, Natural Resources Wales and Natural England. The Ofgem assessment has assessed the project costs in detail to ensure these will deliver value. It is important that this assessment has recognised that each project is in a unique location that may have specialised requirements. Each of these projects has demonstrated that it meets the LEI criteria and it is economic and efficient.

We agree that the three projects accepted will deliver a wide range of benefits to each of the areas for consumers. These projects will involve landscaping to screen existing

infrastructure, works to enhance special landscape characteristics and works to re-focus views.

We consider that the LEI policy will provide the opportunity to deliver landscape and visual benefits across the 30 designated AONBs and National Parks, and look forward to working with Ofgem on future LEI and Visual Impact Provision submissions. The lessons that have been learnt through the first round of LEI will aid in supporting a quicker assessment of projects. We are working with Snowdonia National Park to provide information on the additional queries raised.

Yours Sincerely,

By email

Ellen Struthers

Regulatory Submissions Manager