

I would take the opportunity to comment on a specific area of DNO performance/engagement – Annex 5, UK Power Networks (UKPN) – as part of this consultation.

Q15. Do you consider that UKPN delivered a single point of contact for connection customers? Do you have any evidence to support your view?

The reinforcement of the UKPN network in Nine Elms is a major undertaking, requiring both an upgrade of the capacity at Wimbledon and the construction of a new primary 132/11KV substation in Battersea to support the regeneration of the area. A significant proportion of the new capacity is required for the multi-phase redevelopment of Battersea Power Station and the BPS project team has therefore taken a leading role in the extensive dialogue with UKPN over a number of years. A key issue, which impacted progress during the early stages of negotiation, was that UKPN had to deal with multiple requests from a large number of customers within the Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea area, all of which needed to be both treated confidentially and be taken into account when planning the upgrading and extension of the network.

Following acceptance by BPS of a connection offer in Q4 2015, UKPN appointed a dedicated project team with their project lead being our single point of contact for all works associated with the provision of the new power supplies or otherwise effecting the development. Our respective teams meet on a monthly basis and UKPN provides BPS with a comprehensive progress report, which allows us to keep the wider VNEB development community fully informed. Communication with UKPN is fast, open and transparent - in short, excellent - and from a personal perspective, the best I have experienced at any time dealing with the DNOs on major projects.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.