

By email

Dear Anna

Apologies that this is so late, it's been a very busy few weeks with the launch of the government's new 25 year plan for the environment. We look forward to working with you on all aspects of the VIP project, including the LEI.

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)

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) is proud of our ongoing involvement with the Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project, which naturally aligns with our mission to promote, protect and enhance our nation's beautiful countryside. CPRE champions the inherent value of our designated landscapes, both Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks, that offer enjoyment and tranquillity to all.

The Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) is a vital addition to the major engineering schemes being undertaken through VIP. It enables as many of our precious landscapes as possible to benefit from the £500 million allowance made available by Ofgem. From the outset, unlocking the maximum impact from the allowance has been a key driver for the project's Stakeholder Advisory Group, of which CPRE is a member – the LEI sees this ambition realised. It is incredibly heartening to see the significant improvements already being enabled by LEI funding in landscapes across England and Wales from projects funded in the first window of applications.

CPRE is fully in support of the seven LEI projects currently under consideration to receive funding through National Grid. These varied schemes will make an immense positive difference by detracting and diverting attention away from the overhead transmission lines in these landscapes. Not only will this have a material effect on the fabric of landscape, but we are also confident of the social and cultural benefits increasing the public's enjoyment of these precious spaces will bring.

Ofgem is to be congratulated on its enlightened and innovative approach to public, private and voluntary sector engagement, which it has encouraged through its support of VIP and LEI. We look forward to seeing the far-reaching impacts that further LEI funding will deliver.

Yours sincerely

Tom Fyans