



**National  
Trust**

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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)**

One of the founding beliefs of the National Trust is that places matter to people. Our statutory core purpose is to promote and protect places of historic interest and natural beauty – forever and for everyone. Over the last 120 years we have continually sought to ensure that the nation's countryside, heritage and natural environment are protected for the enjoyment of all and for inheritance by future generations.

As a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group, the Trust has supported the Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project since its inception. We strongly commend its ambition to enhance the natural beauty of the nation's special places, our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks. The Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) is an integral part of this mission, and importantly, will maximise the value that the public receives from Ofgem's £500 million provision.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group has been continually impressed by the breadth and diversity of the projects submitted by AONBs and National Parks across England and Wales. These projects demonstrate a much needed creative approach in seeking to diminish the visual impact of electricity transmission infrastructure, and also exemplify the spirit of partnership and collaboration that has been such a marked characteristic of the VIP project as a whole. As the positive effects of funding from the first window of LEI applications are starting to be realised, it is both unsurprising to me and very encouraging

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that interest in the initiative continues to grow, including amongst my own property managers. I have no doubt that this upward trend will continue and much good will result.

The seven projects currently subject to consultation have demonstrated to the LEI approvals panel, chaired by Mary O'Connor of the Landscape Institute, that they will deliver significant benefits to their local landscapes and, by extension, to the people that treasure these precious spaces. We fully endorse the release of funding for these projects through modification of National Grid's electricity transmission licence.

Finally, the National Trust would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ofgem on both its forward thinking and continued support of the VIP project and LEI. We hope that other regulators will take note of the immense benefits being realised as a result of its enlightened approach.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid

**Dr Ingrid Samuel**

Historic Environment Director

For and on behalf of

The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

### **About the National Trust**

The National Trust is Europe's largest conservation charity and a turnover of £592 million in the 2016/7 financial year. Established over 120 years ago, our primary purpose is to promote the preservation of special places for the benefit of the nation. To achieve this aim we manage over 250,000 hectares of countryside, 3,620 listed buildings, and 775 miles of coastline across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We own 56 villages and wholly or partly own ten World Heritage Sites and manage 8% of registered historic parks and gardens. More than 100 million visits are made every year to the properties in our care.