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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)

The Ramblers helps everyone, everywhere, enjoy walking and protects the places we all love to walk. We are the charity dedicated to looking after paths and green spaces, leading walks, opening up new places to explore and encouraging everyone to get outside and discover how walking boosts your health and your happiness.

Enabling people to walk in beautiful landscapes is at the heart of the Ramblers mission. Already, we have a long history of collaborating with like-minded organisations to protect the unique sense of freedom that comes from being outdoors on foot. Our participation in the Visual Impact Provision project stems from this ambition.

As a member of the national Stakeholder Advisory Group, the Ramblers has helped to drive forward a scheme to improve the landscapes our members love. In part, this has meant shaping the four major projects being taken forward in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the New Forest, Peak District and Snowdonia National Parks. However, a crucial element of the Stakeholder Advisory Group's input to the project has been to champion the Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI). The Group is united as one voice in its belief that the £500 million provision from Ofgem should be used to benefit as many landscapes and communities as possible, and the LEI is key to achieving this.

Ramblers' members and volunteers have shown a distinct interest in the initiative, demonstrating its value and the ability of its principles to capture the imagination of all who enjoy these nationally treasured landscapes. We will continue to encourage our members to participate through collaboration with their local AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities.

We are fully confident that the seven schemes undergoing consultation will offer very real enhancement to the localities in which they sit and greatly benefit the surrounding communities, as well as the many visitors who regularly seek out these landscapes. Accordingly, we express our full support for modification to National Grid's licence to allow these projects to be undertaken.

Through its support for VIP and the LEI, Ofgem has inspired and endorsed a new model for knowledge sharing and creative debate between public sector organisations, industry and local communities. We congratulate Ofgem for its approach, and look forward to seeing the manifold benefits to be unlocked by future LEI funding.

Yours sincerely

Nicky Philpott

Director of advocacy and engagement

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