

SIR BERNARD JENKIN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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08 June 2023

Johnathan Pettigrew
Chief Executive Officer of National Grid

cc. Minister Andrew Bowie MP

Dear Jonathan,

RE: EAST ANGLIA GREEN NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

I am writing to you on behalf of all the OffSET MPs (Offshore Electricity Grid Taskforce) regarding the next round of non-statutory consultation of East Anglia GREEN.

OffSET MPs recently met Minister Bowie to discuss next steps, and we were encouraged by his positive attitude in relation to exploring credible offshore options. We understand that ESO's review of the proposals for transmission reinforcements in East Anglia, including consideration of offshore alternatives, will not begin until the outcome of the OCSS is made public in July. We have been informed by ESO that this will ensure they can engage publicly about the study more easily.

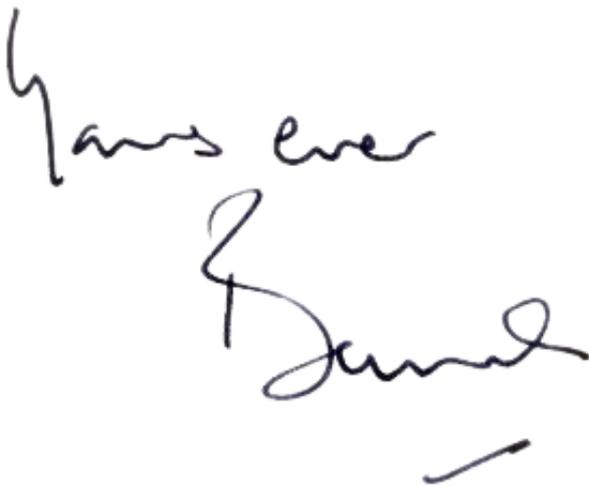
During the meeting with Minister Bowie on the 15th May, there were many nods of heads on all sides in favour of synchronising the publication of ESO's study in advance of the second round of your non-statutory consultation, currently scheduled for Spring/Summer 2023, as per the timeline on your website.

We believe that our constituents would rightly expect the next round of consultation to include full information about alternatives to the present EAG proposals including in depth consideration, and costings, of offshore alternatives. We would therefore like to request that your non-statutory consultation does not begin until after the conclusion of ESO's review, ensuring that constituents attending engagement sessions would be presented with all the information – which is, after all, what really matters.

We also observe that the wind farm developers are now realistic about the likelihood of delays to the approval of their connections to the National Grid. Failure to consider offshore alternatives would lead to delay in any case, as protesters bring cases for judicial review of the present EAG proposals. Continuing with a pointless consultation in the absence of full information on the alternatives would strengthen their case.

Thank you for giving this your attention, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Ever". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sir Bernard Jenkin MP
Chair, OFFSET
Member of Parliament for Harwich and North Essex

cc.

James Cartlidge MP, Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP,
George Freeman MP, Jerome Mayhew MP, Duncan Baker MP,
Jo Churchill MP, Richard Bacon MP, Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP