



James Cartlidge MP
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk

John Pettigrew - CEO
National Grid
1 – 3 Strand
London
WC2N 5EH

CC Claire Coutinho

16th February 2024

Dear John,

RE: ELECTRICITY SYSTEM OPERATOR REVIEW

I am writing to you in my capacity as a constituency MP, regarding the Electricity System Operator's (ESO) review into the electricity network infrastructure in East Anglia – the outcomes of which I understand will be published next month, but which I am assured will include at least one offshore option that negates the need for new pylons (i.e. like those proposed in your 'Norwich to Tilbury' plan).

I write specifically to ask that, before you commence your statutory consultation on 'Norwich to Tilbury', you undertake deep and meaningful engagement with my constituents about the ESO proposals. As I believe you now recognise, the initial Norwich-Tilbury consultation – offering the singular option of pylons, with no offshore choice at all – was deficient. After initially claiming that you had consulted on offshore options, you eventually conceded that you had not, a position that still requires rectification on your part.

It is now vital that you make up for the complete lack of transparent and informed choice to date, by holding similar engagement as per your pylon proposals – face to face in village halls and parish rooms, in the affected localities - thus maximising democratic involvement.

Clearly, sufficient time should be allowed for the public to engage in this process. Most importantly, can you please confirm that no final decision has been made on Norwich-Tilbury, and that you will openly consider all the options set out by ESO – and in particular, will fully involve the public in that process?

I thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

James Cartlidge MP
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk