

13 December 2022

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

**Re: Unblocking electricity network barriers to net zero and economic growth**

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing on behalf of UK energy trade associations to draw your attention to the urgency of addressing constraints on the electricity network if the UK is to achieve net zero, tackle high energy bills and enable economic growth.

Our members inform us that energy projects are facing delays of up to fifteen years due to capacity constraints on the electricity transmission network. These constraints are delaying billions of pounds of private investment needed to deliver on the UK government's targets for renewable energy generation, electricity storage and electric vehicle rapid chargers.

We welcome the government's Electricity Networks Strategic Framework which sets out a comprehensive plan to future-proof and invest in our electricity networks. We also welcome the 'GB Connections Review' launched by the Electricity System Operator and commitments by distribution networks in their business plans to address connection barriers.

However, given the urgency of the challenge, we are calling for:

- 1) Ofgem to require acceleration of investment in the transmission and distribution network and a shift to a strategic rather than reactive approach.
- 2) a CEO-led plan from the system operator, transmission and distribution networks for immediate measures to address constraints. These should include joined up and effective 'queue' management and a smarter, more flexible approach to unlock capacity.

Electricity networks are a crucial component of our national infrastructure, central not just to the energy system but to the economy and society. Given your welcome commitment to champion drivers of green growth and support green investment, we ask for your personal leadership to address constraints on the electricity network.

Yours sincerely,



**Merlin Hyman OBE**  
CEO, Regen and Electricity Storage Network

**Rachel Hayes**  
Director, Electricity Storage Network



**Chris Hewett**  
CEO, Solar Energy UK



**Morag Watson**  
Director of Policy, Scottish Renewables



**Dr Nina Skorupska CBE FEI**  
CEO, Association for Renewable Energy  
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**Dan McGrail**  
CEO, Renewable UK



CC:

Chris Skidmore MP

Jonathan Brearley, CEO, Ofgem

John Pettigrew, CEO, National Grid

Paul van Heyningen, Deputy Director, Net Zero Electricity Networks, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

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