

03 August 2022

Nick Winser CBE  
Electricity Networks Commissioner

**Re: Electricity network barriers to net zero, energy security and lower customer bills**

Dear Nick,

I am writing to congratulate you on your important new role as Electricity Networks Commissioner and to draw your attention to the urgency of addressing the constraints on the network if the UK is to achieve net zero and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

Regen is an independent centre of expertise in clean energy with over 150 member companies that share our mission to accelerate the transition to a net zero energy system. We also manage the Electricity Storage Network.

**Our members inform us that almost all projects over 1 MW seeking to connect to the distribution network are facing delays of up to a decade due to capacity constraints at the transmission level.** Our assessment is that this is now a key barrier to delivering on the UK government's targets for low carbon technologies including renewable energy generation, electricity storage and electric vehicle rapid chargers.

Tackling this urgent challenge requires 1) much faster investment in the transmission network and 2) a CEO-led joined up plan from the networks and system operator to put in place practical measures to address constraints, such as better queue management and flexible connection offers.

I would, therefore, urge you to make addressing transmission constraints for projects connecting at distribution level one of your key priorities, working with the system operator, networks and regulator.

Regen and our members are committed to continue to work closely with all partners in the energy system to address barriers to net zero energy. We would be pleased to brief you further on the current challenges.

Yours sincerely,



**Merlin Hyman OBE**  
Chief executive, Regen

CC:

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

Julian Leslie, Head of Networks and Engineering, National Grid Electricity System Operator