

Date: 6 January 2022 Our ref: 2026502.423 Your ref: BC080001

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Dear Sirs

## Application of London Resort Company Holdings for an Order Granting Development Consent for the London Resort

## **Consultation on Examination Procedure and Timing**

We act on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc ("**NGET**"), an Interested Party in respect of the proposed application by London Resort Company Holdings (the "**Applicant**") for an Order Granting Development Consent for the London Resort (the "**Proposed Application**").

We refer to the letter of 22 December 2021 issued by Mr. Rynd Smith, Lead Member of the Examining Authority, seeking the views of Interested Parties with regard to the timings of the Examination of the Proposed Application.

NGET submitted a relevant representation in this matter on 29 March 2021 in order to protect its existing apparatus and other related land interests.

Whilst NGET does not object in principle to the development proposed by the Applicant, it does however continue to object to the proposed development being carried out in close proximity to its existing apparatus in the area until such time as suitable protective provisions and related agreements have been secured to NGET's satisfaction.

In this context, NGET has sought to engage with the Applicant and its consultant team on numerous occasions since November 2020 in order to obtain reassurances as to how the proposed development pursuant to the Order (if made) will ensure protection for those NGET assets which will remain in situ, alongside facilitating all future access and other rights as are necessary to allow NGET to properly discharge its statutory obligations. In particular, the existing ZR 400kV overhead line (including Towers ZR11, ZR10 and ZR10A) is noted to be of critical strategic importance to the national electricity transmission network.

Although a preliminary meeting took place with the Applicant's consultant team on 24 June 2021, no further engagement has been forthcoming. Despite repeated written requests, NGET is yet to receive a substantive response from the Applicant in respect of any of the matters raised during the meeting of 24 June.

Without further and immediate engagement, NGET is particularly concerned that the emerging proposals for the Proposed Application will fail to take full and proper account of NGET's existing apparatus and other land rights. From experience, and noting also the extent of identified interactions in this instance, NGET recognises that these are invariably complex matters to resolve and document.



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It would be highly undesirable for all concerned to attempt to resolve these matters during the course of the Examination.

Therefore, and taking account of current circumstances in totality, NGET considers that a continued delay to the commencement of the Examination of the Proposed Application until June or July 2022 would be beneficial.

However, NGET wishes to place on record its expectation that any continuation of delay to the start of the Examination until June or July 2022 will be fully and properly utilised by the Applicant in order to achieve meaningful progress in respect of those matters which are currently outstanding and which are outlined above.

In this respect, NGET would endorse the introduction by the Examining Authority of a requirement for the Applicant to submit monthly progress reports outlining the status and extent of engagement with all affected statutory undertakers, including NGET. It is considered that the content of these reports should be concise and factual in nature and should be agreed in advance with each of the respective statutory undertakers. It is possible that the content of these reports could then inform early draft Statements of Common Ground.

We trust that the contents of this letter are helpful to the Examining Authority, but would be pleased to provide any further clarification as required.

Yours faithfully

**Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP** 

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