



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Web:

<https://www.gov.uk/desz>

To:

Our Ref: EN010118

Longfield Solar Energy Farm Limited
Eastern Power Networks plc
UK Power Networks Limited
British Telecommunications plc
Openreach Networks

Date: 5 May 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Longfield Solar Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Longfield Solar Farm (“the Proposed Development”)

POINTS OF CLARIFICATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 18 January 2023, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“the Secretary of State”) on 18 April 2023. The statutory deadline for taking a decision on the application for development consent is 18 July 2023.
2. The Secretary of State would be grateful if Longfield Solar Farm Limited (“the Applicant”), Eastern Power Networks plc, UK Power Networks Limited, Openreach Networks Team and British Telecommunications plc could provide clarification on the matters set out below.

Protective provisions – the Applicant, Eastern Power Networks, and UK Power Networks

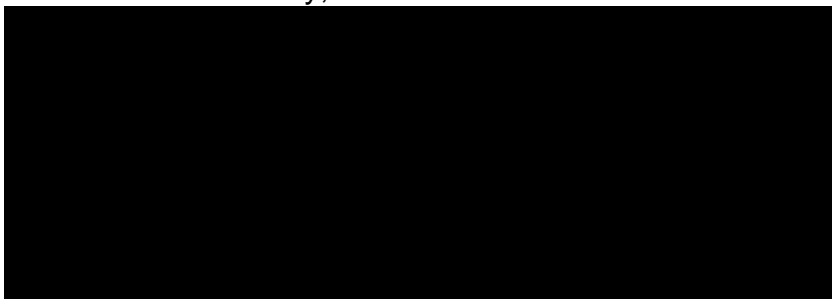
3. The **Applicant, Eastern Power Networks** and **UK Power Networks** should clarify whether the confidential side agreement made on 19 January 2023 between these parties, as referred to in the Applicant’s email to the Planning Inspectorate of 24 January 2023, has resulted in any changes to the protective provisions for the

benefit of Eastern Power Networks Plc and UK Power Networks Limited, in Schedule 15, part 3 of the draft Development Consent Order.

Impact of Proposed Development on existing Openreach infrastructure – British Telecommunications plc, and Openreach Networks

4. Further to the email from British Telecommunications plc dated 27 January 2023, the Secretary of State requests that **British Telecommunications plc** and **Openreach Networks** clarify whether any existing underground infrastructure could be directly impacted by the Proposed Development.
5. **Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to longfieldsolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 23.59 on 12 May 2023.**
6. Responses will be published on the Longfield Solar Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 12 May 2023: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/longfield-solar-farm/>
7. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Longfield Solar Farm or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours sincerely,



David Wagstaff OBE
Deputy Director, Energy Infrastructure Planning
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero