



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

020 7219 4198

23 JAN 2014

22 January, 2014

Dear Sir Michael

**National Grid – Hinkley Point Connection**

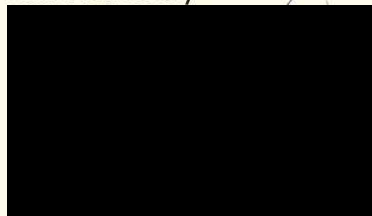
I understand that National Grid is due to make a submission soon on overhead transmission lines in preparation for the development of Hinkley C power station in April 2014.

I am informed that at this point the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether or not it is accepted or rejected as a submission. I would be very grateful if you could set out to me the criteria that will be used to make this decision.

You will be aware that there has been considerable public anxiety about this project which has been exacerbated by the way in which National Grid have conducted what they describe as a "consultation". Last week I met with the Leader of North Somerset Council and the key National Grid representatives to try to ascertain the way in which some of their decisions had been reached. Specifically, we were interested to know what weighting was given to financial, environmental and human factors. We were told, for example, that while they understood that one local village, Portbury, would be severely impacted, we were unable to determine what environmental or financial factors had led to this decision.

All in all, it has been one of the most unsatisfactory processes I have encountered in my twenty-two years as a Member of Parliament and my reason for writing to you in advance is so that we might know the objective basis on which your decision will be made, affecting as it does, so many individuals and so much of the environment.

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Pitt  
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