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11 April 2017

Dear Sir

**Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ("the Applicant") for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Richborough Connection Project**

We write further to your letter of 31 March 2017 and our letter of 6 December 2016 to The Planning Inspectorate.

The Crown Estate Commissioners are continuing to work with the Applicant to agree a position which would provide the Commissioners with sufficient assurance as to the way in which compulsory acquisition powers of third party interests in Crown land forming part of the Crown Estate may be exercised. This would permit the Commissioners to provide their consent to the compulsory acquisition of the third party interests in the relevant plots for the purpose of section 135(1) of the Planning Act 2008 and their consent to the provisions of the draft development consent order for the purpose of section 135(2) of the Act. Such consents would be provided on the basis set out in our letter of 6 December.

We note the date for the Secretary of State to determine the Applicant's application and we shall write to you as soon as we are able to confirm the position.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Treadaway  
Senior Legal Counsel