

Dear Sir or Madam

As the Examining Authority is aware, we are instructed by Southern Gas Networks Plc (SGN) in relation to this Order as detailed in the relevant representation made by SGN on 29 September 2023.

Further to previous correspondence, I can confirm that the parties have now reached an agreed position regarding the inclusion of SGN's preferred protective provisions in the Order and the Promoter has confirmed that it will include these protective provisions in the final version of the Order submitted. A copy of these are attached for reference.

On the basis that these protective provisions are to be included in the Order, SGN withdraws its objection.

Kind regards

Charlotte

Appendix 1

Agreed wording for Protective Provisions

PART [x]

FOR THE PROTECTION OF SOUTHERN GAS NETWORKS PLC AS GAS UNDERTAKER

Application

1. For the protection of SGN the following provisions will, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the undertaker and SGN, have effect.

Interpretation

2. In this Part of this Schedule—

“alternative apparatus” means appropriate alternative apparatus to the reasonable satisfaction of SGN to enable SGN to fulfil its statutory functions in a manner no less efficient than previously;

“apparatus” means any gas mains, pipes, pressure governors, ventilators, cathodic protections, cables or other apparatus belonging to or maintained by SGN for the purposes of gas distribution together with any replacement apparatus and such other apparatus constructed pursuant to the Order that becomes operational apparatus of SGN for the purposes of transmission, distribution and/or supply and includes any structure in which apparatus is or will be lodged or which gives or will give access to apparatus;

“authorised works” has the same meaning as is given to the term “authorised development” in article 2 (interpretation) of this Order and includes any associated development authorised by the Order and for the purposes of this Part of this Schedule includes the use and maintenance of the authorised works and construction of any works authorised by this Schedule;

“emergency works” means works whose execution at the time when they are executed is required in order to put an end to, or to prevent the occurrence of, circumstances then existing or imminent (or which the person responsible for the works believes on reasonable grounds to be existing or imminent) which are likely to cause danger to persons or property. Where works comprise items some of which fall within this definition, the expression “emergency works” shall be taken to include such of the items as do not fall within that definition as cannot reasonably be severed from those that do;

“functions” includes powers and duties;

“ground mitigation scheme” means a scheme approved by SGN (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed) setting out the necessary measures (if any) for a ground subsidence event;

“ground monitoring scheme” means a scheme for monitoring ground subsidence which sets out the apparatus which is to be subject to such monitoring, the extent of land to be monitored, the manner in which ground levels are to be monitored, the timescales of any monitoring activities and the extent of ground subsidence which, if exceeded, shall require the undertaker to submit for SGN’s approval a ground mitigation scheme;

“ground subsidence event” means any ground subsidence identified by the monitoring activities set out in the ground monitoring scheme that has exceeded the level described in the ground monitoring scheme as requiring a ground mitigation scheme;

“in” in a context referring to apparatus or alternative apparatus in land includes a reference to apparatus or alternative apparatus under, over, across, along or upon such land;

“maintain” and “maintenance” shall include the ability and right to do any of the following in relation to any apparatus or alternative apparatus of SGN including retain, lay, construct, inspect,

maintain, protect, use, access, replace, renew, decommission or render unusable or remove the apparatus;

“plan” or “plans” include all designs, drawings, specifications, method statements, soil reports, programmes, calculations, risk assessments and other documents that are reasonably necessary to properly and sufficiently describe and assess the works to be executed;

“replacement rights” means rights conferred by way of a deed of consent, crossing agreement, deed of variation or new deed of grant agreed between the parties acting reasonably in order to vary and/or replace existing easements, agreements, enactments and other such interests so as to secure land rights and interests as are necessary to carry out, maintain, operate and use the apparatus in a manner consistent with the terms of this Part of this Schedule;

“rights” shall include rights and restrictive covenants, and in relation to decommissioned apparatus the surrender of rights, release of liabilities and transfer of decommissioned apparatus;

“SGN” means Southern Gas Networks plc or its successors in title or successor bodies and/or any successor as a gas transporter within the meaning of Part 1 of the Gas Act 1986.

“specified works” means any of the authorised works or activities undertaken in association with the authorised works which:

- (a) will or may be situated over, or within 15 metres measured in any direction of, any apparatus the removal of which has not been required by the undertaker under sub-paragraph 7(2) or otherwise; and/or
- (b) may in any way adversely affect any apparatus the removal of which has not been required by the undertaker under sub-paragraph 7(2) or otherwise;

“undertaker” means the undertaker as defined in article 2 (interpretation) of this Order.

On street apparatus

3.—(1) This Part of this Schedule does not apply to apparatus in respect of which the relations between the undertaker and SGN are regulated by the provisions of Part 3 of the 1991 Act, except for:

- (a) paragraphs 4 (apparatus of SGN in stopped up streets), 9 (retained apparatus: protection of SGN) and 10 (expenses) of this Part of this Schedule; and
- (b) paragraphs 7 (removal of apparatus) and 8 (facilities and rights for alternative apparatus) of this Part of this Schedule in so far as sub-paragraph 3(2) below applies,

which will apply in respect of the exercise of all or any powers under the Order affecting the rights and apparatus of SGN.

(2) Paragraphs 7 and 8 of this Part of this Schedule shall apply to diversions even where carried out under the 1991 Act, in circumstances where any apparatus is diverted from an alignment within the existing adopted public highway but not wholly replaced within existing adopted public highway.

(3) Section 85 of the 1991 Act in relation to cost sharing and the regulations made thereunder shall not apply in relation to any diversion of apparatus of SGN under the 1991 Act.

Apparatus of SGN in stopped up streets

4.—(1) Without prejudice to the generality of any other protection afforded to SGN elsewhere in the Order, where any street is stopped up under article 13 (stopping up of streets), if SGN has any apparatus in the street or accessed via that street SGN will be entitled to the same rights in respect of such apparatus as it enjoyed immediately before the stopping up and the undertaker will grant to SGN, or will procure the granting to SGN of, legal easements reasonably satisfactory to SGN in respect of such apparatus and access to it prior to the stopping up of any such street or highway but nothing in this paragraph shall affect any right of the undertaker or of SGN to require the removal of that apparatus under paragraph 7.

(2) Notwithstanding the temporary closure or diversion of any street under the powers of article 14 (temporary closure of streets), SGN will be at liberty at all times to take all necessary access across any such closed street and/or to execute and do all such works and things in, upon or under any such

street as it would have been entitled to do immediately before such temporary stopping up or diversion in respect of any apparatus which at the time of the closure or diversion was in that street.

Protective works to buildings

5. The undertaker, in the case of the powers conferred by article 23 (protective work to buildings), must exercise those powers so as not to obstruct or render less convenient the access to any apparatus without the written consent of SGN.

Acquisition of land

6.—(1) Regardless of any provision in this Order or anything shown on the land plans or contained in the book of reference to the Order, the undertaker may not appropriate or acquire apparatus of SGN or appropriate, acquire, extinguish, interfere with or override any easement, other interest or right of SGN over land in which apparatus of SGN is placed otherwise than by agreement.

(2) Prior to the carrying out of any part of the authorised works (or in such other timeframe as may be agreed between SGN and the undertaker) that are subject to the requirements of this Part of this Schedule that will cause any conflict with or breach the terms of any easement and/or other legal or land interest of SGN and/or affect the provisions of any enactment or agreement regulating the relations between SGN and the undertaker in respect of any apparatus laid or erected in land belonging to or secured by the undertaker, the undertaker must provide replacement rights to SGN which must be no less favourable on the whole to SGN unless otherwise agreed by SGN and (to the extent necessary) it will be the responsibility of the undertaker to procure and/or secure the consent and entering into of any deeds and variations required to be entered into by other third parties in connection with the provision of replacement rights.

(3) The undertaker and SGN agree that where there is any inconsistency or duplication between the provisions set out in this Part of this Schedule relating to the relocation and/or removal of apparatus, including but not limited to the payment of costs and expenses relating to such relocation and/or removal of apparatus and the provisions of any existing easement, rights, agreements and licences granted, used, enjoyed or exercised by SGN and/or other enactments relied upon by SGN as of right or other use in relation to the apparatus, then the provisions in this Part of this Schedule shall prevail.

(4) Any agreement or consent granted by SGN under paragraph 9 or any other paragraph of this Part of this Schedule shall not be taken to constitute agreement under sub-paragraph 6(1).

(5) As a condition of any agreement between the parties in sub-paragraph 6(1) that involves de-commissioned apparatus being left in situ in any land of the undertaker, the undertaker must accept a surrender of any existing easement and/or other interest of SGN in such de-commissioned apparatus and consequently acquire title to such de-commissioned apparatus and release SGN from all liabilities in respect of such de-commissioned apparatus from the date of such surrender.

(6) Where the undertaker acquires land which is subject to any SGN right or interest (including, without limitation, easements and agreements relating to rights or other interests) and the provisions of paragraph 7 do not apply, the undertaker must (where the undertaker reasonably considers it compatible with the carrying out of the authorised works):

- (a) retain any notice of SGN's easement, right or other interest on the title to the relevant land when registering the undertaker's title to such acquired land; and
- (b) where no such notice of SGN's easement, right or other interest exists in relation to such acquired land or any such notice is registered only on the Land Charges Register) include (with its application to register title to the undertaker's interest in such acquired land at the Land Registry) a notice of SGN's easement, right or other interest in relation to such acquired land; and
- (c) upon request from SGN, provide up to date official entry copies to SGN as soon as reasonably practicable.

(7) If the undertaker acquires land which is subject to any SGN right or interest and the undertaker reasonably considers that it cannot retain SGN's easement, right or other interest, the undertaker must provide replacement rights to SGN.

Removal of apparatus

7.—(1) If, in the exercise of an agreement reached in accordance with paragraph 6 or in any other authorised manner, the undertaker acquires any interest in any land in which any apparatus is placed, that apparatus must not be decommissioned or removed under this Part of this Schedule, and any right of SGN to maintain that apparatus in that land must not be extinguished, until alternative apparatus has been constructed, is in operation, and the rights and facilities referred to in sub-paragraph (2) have been provided, to the reasonable satisfaction of SGN and in accordance with sub-paragraphs (2) to (5) inclusive.

(2) If, for the purpose of executing any works in, on, under or over any land purchased, held, appropriated or used under this Order, the undertaker requires the removal of any apparatus placed in that land, it must give to SGN advance written notice of that requirement, together with a plan and section of the work proposed, and of the proposed position of the alternative apparatus to be provided or constructed and in that case (or if in consequence of the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this Order SGN reasonably needs to move or remove any of its apparatus) the undertaker must afford to SGN to its reasonable satisfaction (taking into account sub-paragraph 8(1) below) the necessary facilities and rights:

- (a) for the construction of alternative apparatus;
- (b) subsequently for the maintenance of that apparatus; and
- (c) to allow access to that apparatus,

in each case including appropriate working areas required to reasonably and safely undertake necessary works by SGN in respect of the apparatus.

(3) If the undertaker is unable to afford such facilities and rights as are mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) in the land in which the alternative apparatus or part of such apparatus is to be constructed, SGN must, on receipt of a written notice to that effect from the undertaker, take such steps as are reasonable in the circumstances in an endeavour to assist the undertaker in obtaining the necessary facilities and rights in the land in which the alternative apparatus is to be constructed, save that this obligation shall not extend to the requirement for SGN to use its compulsory purchase powers to this end unless it (in its absolute discretion) elects to do so.

(4) Any alternative apparatus to be constructed in land of, or land secured by, the undertaker under this Part of this Schedule must be constructed in such manner and in such line or situation as may be agreed between SGN and the undertaker.

(5) SGN must, after the alternative apparatus to be provided or constructed has been agreed, and subject to the prior grant to SGN of such facilities and rights as are referred to in sub-paragraph (2) or (3), proceed without unnecessary delay to construct and bring into operation the alternative apparatus and subsequently to decommission or remove any apparatus required by the undertaker to be decommissioned or removed under the provisions of this Part of this Schedule.

Facilities and rights for alternative apparatus

8.—(1) Where, in accordance with the provisions of this Part of this Schedule, the undertaker affords to or secures for SGN facilities and rights in land for the access to, and construction and maintenance of, alternative apparatus in substitution for apparatus to be decommissioned or removed, those facilities and rights must be granted upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the undertaker and SGN (both acting reasonably), and must be no less favourable on the whole to SGN than the facilities and rights enjoyed by it in respect of the apparatus to be decommissioned or removed unless otherwise agreed by SGN.

(2) If the facilities and rights to be afforded by the undertaker and agreed with SGN under sub paragraph 8(1) above in respect of any alternative apparatus, and the terms and conditions subject to which those facilities and rights are to be granted, are less favourable on the whole to SGN than the facilities and rights enjoyed by SGN in respect of the apparatus to be decommissioned or removed (in SGN's reasonable opinion), then the terms and conditions to which those facilities and rights are subject in the matter will be referred to arbitration in accordance with paragraph 14 of this Part of this Schedule and the arbitrator shall make such provision for the payment of compensation by the

undertaker to SGN as appears to the arbitrator to be reasonable having regard to all the circumstances of the particular case.

Retained apparatus: protection of SGN

9.—(1) Not less than 56 days before the carrying out of any specified works the undertaker must submit to SGN a plan and, if reasonably required by SGN, a ground monitoring scheme in respect of those works.

(2) The plan to be submitted to SGN under sub-paragraph (1) must include a method statement and describe—

- (a) the exact position of the works;
- (b) the level at which these are proposed to be constructed or renewed;
- (c) the manner of their construction or renewal including details of excavation, positioning of plant etc.;
- (d) the position of all apparatus;
- (e) by way of detailed drawings, every alteration proposed to be made to or close to any such apparatus; and
- (f) any intended maintenance regimes.

(3) The undertaker must not carry out any works to which sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) apply until SGN has given written approval of the plan so submitted.

(4) Any approval of SGN required under sub-paragraph (3)—

- (a) may be given subject to reasonable conditions for any purpose mentioned in sub-paragraphs (5) or (7); and
- (b) must not be unreasonably withheld; and
- (c) if by the end of the period of 56 days from the submission of the plans pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) SGN has not intimated their disapproval of those plans and the grounds of such disapproval the undertaker may serve upon SGN written notice requiring SGN to intimate approval or disapproval within a further period of 28 days beginning with the date upon which SGN receives written notice from the undertaker and if by the expiry of the further 28 days SGN has not intimated approval or disapproval, SGN shall be deemed to have approved the plans as submitted.

(5) In relation to any work to which sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) apply, SGN may require such modifications to be made to the plans as may be reasonably necessary for the purpose of securing apparatus against interference or risk of damage or for the purpose of providing or securing proper and convenient means of access to any apparatus.

(6) Works to which this paragraph applies must only be executed in accordance with:

- (a) the plan submitted under sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) (or as modified pursuant to sub-paragraphs (4) and (5)); and
- (b) all conditions imposed under sub-paragraph (4)(a),

as approved or as amended from time to time by agreement between the undertaker and SGN, and SGN will be entitled to watch and inspect the execution of those works.

(7) Where SGN requires any protective works to be carried out by itself or by the undertaker (whether of a temporary or permanent nature) such protective works, inclusive of any measures or schemes required and approved as part of the plan approved pursuant to this paragraph, must be carried out to SGN's reasonable satisfaction prior to the carrying out of any specified works (or any relevant part thereof) for which protective works are required and SGN must notify the undertaker of any such requirements within 45 days of submission of a plan pursuant to sub-paragraphs (1) and (2).

(8) If SGN, in consequence of the works proposed by the undertaker, reasonably requires the removal of any apparatus and gives written notice to the undertaker of that requirement, paragraphs 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 apply as if the removal of the apparatus had been required by the undertaker under sub-paragraph 7(2).

(9) Nothing in this paragraph precludes the undertaker from submitting at any time or from time to time, but in no case less than 56 days before carrying out the specified works, a new plan, instead of the plan previously submitted, and having done so the provisions of this paragraph will apply to and in respect of the new plan.

(10) The undertaker will not be required to comply with sub-paragraph (1) where it needs to carry out emergency works, but in that case it must give to SGN notice as soon as is reasonably practicable and a plan of those works and must comply with—

- (a) the conditions imposed under sub-paragraph (4)(a) insofar as is reasonably practicable in the circumstances; and
- (b) sub-paragraph (11) at all times.

(11) As soon as reasonably practicable after any ground subsidence event attributable to the authorised development which SGN reasonably considers is likely to have adversely affected apparatus, the undertaker shall implement an appropriate ground mitigation scheme save that SGN retains the right to carry out any further necessary protective works for the safeguarding of its apparatus and can recover any such costs in line with paragraph 10.

Expenses

10.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, the undertaker must pay to SGN on demand all charges, costs and expenses reasonably anticipated or incurred by SGN (on provision of evidence by SGN to justify their claim and which in all cases must be reasonable in amount) in, or in connection with, the inspection, removal, relaying or replacing, alteration or protection of any apparatus or rights or the construction of any new or alternative apparatus which may be required in consequence of the execution of any authorised works as are referred to in this Part of this Schedule including without limitation—

- (a) any costs reasonably incurred by or compensation properly paid by SGN in connection with the negotiation or acquisition of rights or the exercise of statutory powers for such apparatus including without limitation all reasonable and properly incurred costs (including professional fees) incurred by SGN as a consequence of SGN—
 - (i) using its own compulsory purchase powers to acquire any necessary rights under sub-paragraph 7(3) if it elects to do so; and/or
 - (ii) exercising any compulsory purchase powers in the Order transferred to or benefitting SGN;
- (b) in connection with the cost of the carrying out of any diversion work or the provision of any alternative apparatus;
- (c) the cutting off of any apparatus from any other apparatus or the making safe of redundant apparatus;
- (d) the approval of plans;
- (e) the carrying out of protective works, plus a capitalised sum to cover the cost of maintaining and renewing permanent protective works (provided that the quantum of this sum must be agreed between the undertaker and SGN prior to the protective works being carried out (save in the case of emergency works));
- (f) the survey of any land, apparatus or works, the inspection and monitoring of works or the installation or removal of any temporary works reasonably necessary in consequence of the execution of any such works referred to in this Part of this Schedule; and
- (g) any watching brief pursuant to sub-paragraph 9(6).

(2) There will be deducted from any sum payable under sub-paragraph (1) the value of any apparatus removed under the provisions of this Part of this Schedule which is not re-used as part of the alternative apparatus, that value being calculated after removal.

(3) If in accordance with the provisions of this Part of this Schedule—

- (a) apparatus of better type, of greater capacity or of greater dimensions is placed in substitution for existing apparatus of worse type, of smaller capacity or of smaller dimensions; or

(b) apparatus (whether existing apparatus or apparatus substituted for existing apparatus) is placed at a depth greater than the depth at which the existing apparatus was situated, and the placing of apparatus of that type or capacity or of those dimensions or the placing of apparatus at that depth, as the case may be, is not agreed by the undertaker or, in default of agreement, is not determined by arbitration in accordance with article 54 (arbitration) to be necessary, then, if such placing involves cost in the construction of works under this Part of this Schedule exceeding that which would have been involved if the apparatus placed had been of the existing type, capacity or dimensions, or at the existing depth, as the case may be, the amount which apart from this sub-paragraph would be payable to SGN by virtue of sub-paragraph (1) will be reduced by the amount of that excess save where it is not possible in the circumstances (including due to statutory or regulatory changes) to obtain the existing type of apparatus at the same capacity and dimensions or place at the existing depth in which case full costs will be borne by the undertaker.

(4) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3)—

- (a) an extension of apparatus to a length greater than the length of existing apparatus will not be treated as a placing of apparatus of greater dimensions than those of the existing apparatus; and
- (b) where the provision of a joint in a pipe or cable is agreed, or is determined to be necessary, the consequential provision of a jointing chamber or of a manhole will be treated as if it also had been agreed or had been so determined.

(5) An amount which apart from this sub-paragraph would be payable to SGN in respect of works by virtue of sub-paragraph (1), if the works include the placing of apparatus provided in substitution for apparatus placed more than 7 years and 6 months earlier so as to confer on SGN any financial benefit by deferment of the time for renewal of the apparatus in the ordinary course, is to be reduced by the amount which represents that benefit.

Enactments and agreements

11. Save to the extent provided for to the contrary elsewhere in this Part of this Schedule or by agreement in writing between SGN and the undertaker, nothing in this Part of this Schedule shall affect the provisions of any enactment or agreement regulating the relations between the undertaker and SGN in respect of any apparatus laid or erected in land belonging to the undertaker on the date on which this Order is made.

Co-operation

12.—(1) Where in consequence of the proposed construction of any of the authorised works, the undertaker or SGN requires the removal of apparatus under sub-paragraph 7(2) or SGN makes requirements for the protection or alteration of apparatus under paragraph 9, the undertaker must use its best endeavours to co-ordinate the execution of the works in the interests of safety and the efficient and economic execution of the authorised development and taking into account the need to ensure the safe and efficient operation of SGN's undertaking and SGN must co-operate with the undertaker for that purpose.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, whenever SGN's consent, agreement or approval is required in relation to plans, documents or other information submitted by SGN or the taking of action by SGN, it must not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

Access

13. If in consequence of the agreement reached in accordance with sub-paragraph 6(1) or the powers granted under this Order the access to any apparatus (including appropriate working areas required to reasonably and safely undertake necessary works by SGN in respect of the apparatus) is materially obstructed, the undertaker must provide such alternative rights and means of access to such apparatus as will enable SGN to maintain or use the apparatus no less effectively than was possible before such obstruction.

Arbitration

14.—(1) Any difference or dispute arising between the undertaker and SGN under this Part of this Schedule must, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the undertaker and SGN, be determined by arbitration in accordance with article 54 (arbitration).

(2) In determining any difference or dispute to which sub-paragraph (1) applies, the arbitrator must give full weight to the position expressed by SGN in relation to a dispute or difference as to the safe and efficient operation of its network.

Notices

15. The plans submitted to SGN by the undertaker pursuant to sub-paragraph 9(1) must be sent to SGN at 1 Forbury Place, 43 Forbury Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 3JH or such other address as SGN may from time to time appoint instead for that purpose and notify to the undertaker.