



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Michael Shanks MP
Minister for Energy
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Our Ref: EC09915/EG

9 July 2025

Dear Michael,

Re: National Grid

I recently met with representatives of National Grid in my constituency. They raised with me two changes to legislation that they say would greatly assist in delivering the distribution network infrastructure required to support the delivery of the energy transition and to support the rollout of low carbon technologies, specifically:

1. Giving electricity distribution network the same rights of land access as other utility providers – this is critical to enable the maintenance and delivery of distribution networks (the local electricity network).
2. Expanding the range of visually negligible works and upgrades that distribution network operators can undertake using permitted development rights. This includes being able to increase the thickness of wires and adding extra wires to existing overhead lines.

National Grid says both changes will reduce the time it takes for those seeking grid connections, as well as reducing unnecessary burdens on overstretched local planning authorities. Both proposals sound quite sensible to me.

Please could you let me know your views on these two proposals, and how it might be possible to operationalise them?

Yours sincerely

Ellie Chowns MP
Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire

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