



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and
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Dear Steve and Sarah

Strategic planning around offshore wind developments in the southern North Sea and anticipated impacts on communities in the East Suffolk and North Norfolk local authority areas

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State dated 13 January 2020 detailing your concerns relating to strategic planning of offshore wind developments in the southern North Sea and the expected impacts on local communities. Your letter raises some very important questions around how we connect new offshore wind projects and I am grateful to you for taking time to come to Westminster recently to discuss the issues in more detail.

You will be aware that the Government has very strong ambitions to increase the deployment of offshore wind to deliver a clean and secure energy system for the future. I was pleased to see the commitment in Ofgem's recently published Decarbonisation Action Plan to review the current frameworks for connecting offshore generation, which my officials will engage with closely. I have also written to National Grid ESO and recently met with Fintan Slye to stress the importance of undertaking studies to assess more coordinated approaches for offshore transmission in light of governments increased ambition for offshore wind.

I am pleased that you were able to continue this important dialogue with my officials and other key stakeholders at the session held on 2 March. I hope you found the session useful and would like to thank you for the clarity you provided regarding your concerns. My officials will continue to engage with you on these in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth