



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Mr Rout & Mr Rivett,

Thank you for your email dated 7 December enclosing correspondence supporting the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) to reach its full potential to coordinate and minimise the extent of future offshore connections.

I would like to start by thanking you for your suggestions on how to ensure effective and rapid deployment of coordinated connections. The OTNR will focus on ensuring that future connections for offshore wind are delivered in a way that can support our decarbonisation objectives, whilst finding the appropriate balance between environmental, social and economic costs. In advance of securing any necessary primary legislation, we are still looking to maximise the impact the Review can have ahead of 2030. This is through the early opportunities and pathway to 2030 workstream under the current regime.

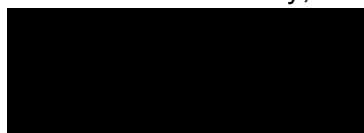
Current legislative and regulatory frameworks have delivered significant benefits in terms of supporting the maturation of offshore wind. However, the radial approach to connections that has resulted is now presenting a barrier to the continued deployment of offshore wind at the scale we need. This is even more challenging in the context of the recent increase in ambition for the sector.

To support the delivery of the target to reach 40 GW of offshore wind by 2030, we intend to take measures to address this and ensure transmission does not present a barrier to deployment. One of the priority areas the Review will be to explore the potential for early opportunities through the use of pathfinder projects. We have been engaging with developers to understand what the potential for pathfinders is and what barriers exist under the current framework. We will use this to make targeted changes, or to use existing flexibilities, such as the approach to anticipatory investment.

The OTNR team held a webinar on 17 December to set out the approach we intend to take to the Review. The materials from this session are available on the OTNR webpage, at:

www.gov.uk/government/groups/offshore-transmission-network-review#terms-of-reference. Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope that you find this information useful and look forward to your continued engagement in this project.

Yours sincerely,



THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth