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For the attention of Louise Staples MRICS, FAAV

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Dear Louise,

The National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (Scotland to England Greenlink 2) Compulsory Purchase Order 2023 (the Order)

We act on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (**NGET**), the acquiring authority in respect of the National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (Scotland to England Greenlink 2) Compulsory Purchase Order 2020 (the **Order**) in respect of NGET's Scotland to England Greenlink 2 project (the **Project**).

The Order was made on 5 September 2023 and has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero (**DESNZ**) for confirmation. We have been passed a copy of the written submissions made by the NFU in respect of the Order and submitted to DESNZ on 10 October 2023 (the **NFU Submission**). The NFU Submission is purported to be made on behalf of unidentified "*members and clients*". The NFU Submission is also made on behalf of the Land Interest Group (**LIG**).

LIG is identified as being made up of a number of organisations, of which East Riding of Yorkshire Council are a landowner affected by the Order. The remainder of organisations identified are land agents as opposed to landowners affected by the Order, some of whom have submitted representations on the Order on behalf of their clients and some of whom have not.

NGET's position is that the NFU Submission is not a relevant objection for the purposes of s. 13(6) of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (**the 1981 Act**) and, accordingly, that the Secretary of State can disregard the grounds of objection raised in the NFU Submission.

The 1981 Act defines a relevant objection as one raised by (or on behalf of) a person who is a "qualifying person" for the purposes of s. 12(2) – that is, an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or

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occupier of the land, or a person whom NGET thinks is likely to be entitled to make a relevant claim if the order is confirmed.

The NFU Submission does not identify any of the members for which the NFU purports to act or identify on whose behalf the objection has been submitted. It does not identify: 1) any specific plots in the Order to which comments relate; 2) the identities of any persons with an interest in said plots; or 3) the nature of that interest. On the basis that the NFU Submission is not made on behalf of a qualifying person, it is not a relevant objection. Similarly, the NFU Submission does not identify this information in respect of LIG or identify the corporate standing or remit of LIG. This is particularly important given that some of the organisations identified in the letter do not represent landowners who have submitted an objection to the Order, and so the NFU cannot purport to represent landowners who have not objected.

NGET is aware that individual landowners, represented by their own land agents, have submitted objections and it is committed to working with those parties to resolve the grounds of their objection. It is not procedurally appropriate or fair for a landowner who is professionally represented by a land agent to submit or rely on two objections (i.e., one on its behalf by a professional land agent and one by the NFU).

NGET's position, therefore, is that the NFU Submission is not a relevant objection and that the Secretary of State does not require to consider the NFU Submission further.

Regardless of this, NGET has engaged with the NFU and LIG for a substantive period of time in relation to the Heads of Terms in respect of the Project. NGET does not accept that there has been a lack of engagement, and NGET's position is that it has gone far beyond the level of engagement required in order for the Order to be confirmed.

Yours faithfully,



CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP

cc:

John McKenna, Department for Energy Security & Net Zero,
Sarah Tudor, Planning Inspectorate
Stephen Waterfield, Planning Inspectorate