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Louise Lewin
Consents Officer – East Coast Offshore
National Grid Electricity Transmission
National Grid House
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill
Warwick
CV34 6DA

Our ref EN020026
Your ref

31 March 2022

Dear Ms Lewin,

**SEA LINK INTERCONNECTOR:
REQUEST FOR DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 35 OF PLANNING ACT 2008**

Thank you for your letter dated 4 March 2022 to the Secretary of State requesting the Secretary of State exercises powers under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to direct that the Sea Link project is to be treated as a development for which development consent is required under the Planning Act 2008.

The Secretary of State has agreed to your request in that he considers that the proposed project should be dealt with as being nationally significant. The Secretary of State considers that, when further details are available, and before submitting any application to The Planning Inspectorate, National Grid Electricity Transmission may wish to seek confirmation from the Secretary of State that the project and development which is the subject of the proposed application is the same as that for which the Direction is hereby given. Alternatively, that would be a matter to be considered by the Examining Authority when the application is made.

A signed Direction to that effect is attached. This Direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for development consent which is made in relation to this proposed development.

As there is currently no project page on The Planning Inspectorate's website, the Direction will be published on GOV.UK here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-infrastructure-development-applications-decisions>. Also published with the signed Direction will be National Grid Electricity Transmission's request including letters of support from East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council, and Dover District Council.

We would request that National Grid Electricity Transmission get in touch with The Planning Inspectorate as soon as possible to provide the necessary details of the proposed scheme so that a project page can be set up on its National Infrastructure website and for the Direction notice to subsequently be published on that page.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Leigh', written in a cursive style.

Gareth Leigh
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning