

**DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 35 AND
SECTION 233(2) OF THE
PLANNING ACT 2008 RELATING TO THE EUROLINK-LION LINK
MULTIPURPOSE
INTERCONNECTOR**

ORIGINALLY GRANTED ON 28 JULY 2022

By letter to the Secretary of State received on ~~[XXXX]28 July 2022~~, National Grid ~~Interconnector Holdings~~Lion Link Limited (“National Grid”) formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power vested in him under section 35(1) and section 233(2) of the Planning Act 2008 to direct that the UK elements of the ~~Eurolink-Lion Link Multipurpose~~Lion Link Interconnector as set out in the Direction request (“the proposed project”) be treated as development for which development consent under the Planning Act 2008 is required.

The Secretary of State is satisfied that:

- The proposed project is in the field of energy and development and will be wholly within England and waters adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea and the Renewable Energy Zone when completed;
- The proposed project does not currently fall within the existing definition of a “nationally significant infrastructure project” and therefore it is appropriate to consider use of the power in section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008; and
- National Grid’s request constitutes a “qualifying request” in accordance with section 35ZA(11) of the Planning Act 2008.

Having considered the details of National Grid’s proposals as set out in their letter of ~~28 July 2022~~[XXXX] and noting the previous views of East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council that support the Direction request, the Secretary of State is of the view that the proposed project is continues to be nationally significant, for the reasons set out in the Annex below.

The Secretary of State considers that, when further details are available, and before submitting any application to The Planning Inspectorate, National Grid may wish to seek confirmation from the Secretary of State that the Project and development that is the subject of the proposed application is the same as that for which the Direction is hereby given.

The Secretary of State has taken the decision within the conditions as required by sections 35A(2) and (5) of the Planning Act 2008, and issues this Direction accordingly under sections 35(1), ~~and~~ 35ZA and 233(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTS that the proposed project is to be treated as development for which development consent is required.

The Secretary of State further directs in accordance with sections 35ZA(3)(b) and (5) of the Planning Act 2008 that an application for a consent or authorisation mentioned in section 33(1) or (2) of the Planning Act 2008 or similar to that described in the Request to the Secretary of State for ~~Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy~~Energy Security and Net Zero for a

Direction under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 made by National Grid on ~~28 July 2022~~[XXXX] for the proposed project is to be treated as a proposed application for which development consent is required.

The Secretary of State further directs that the direction of 28 July 2022 has been varied accordingly.

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 the proposed Development.

Signed by

[XXXX]~~Gareth Leigh~~

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for ~~Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy~~Energy Security and Net Zero

~~23 August 2022~~[XXXX]

ANNEX

REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE VARIED DIRECTION

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the varied Direction should be issued because:

- The proposed project is of national significance, taking into account that it forms part of a high voltage direct current electricity link with capacity of up to ~~21.8~~GW between the national transmission systems of Great Britain and the Netherlands.
- The proposed project will play an important role in enabling an energy system that meets the UK's commitment to reduce carbon emissions and the Government's objectives to create a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply for consumers.

- The proposed project will play an important role achieving the objectives identified in The Clean Flexibility Roadmap dated July 2025, the Clean Flexibility Roadmap Update dated July 2026, the Declaration on the North Seas as Europe's Green Power Plant dated 24 April 2023, The Hamburg Declaration From National to Regional: delivering on our joint vision of the North Seas as Europe's Clean Power Hub Europe dated 26 January 2026 and The Hamburg Joint Declaration of Intent on the development of cooperation projects for an interconnected offshore renewable energy grid in the north seas dated 26 January 2026.
- By progressing the development through the Planning Act 2008 development consent process, it would provide the certainty of a single, unified consenting process and fixed timescales.