



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State
Department for Energy Security
& Net Zero
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

www.gov.uk

Dr Jenifer Baxter
Deputy Chair
National Infrastructure Commission for Wales
Reply by email:
Stuart.Ingram@gov.wales

Our ref: MCB2023/17592

August 2023

Dear Dr Baxter,

Thank you for your letter of 3 August, regarding the proposal for a 4 Nations Intergovernmental Ministerial Working Group. I apologise for the delay in response.

The Government expects annual electricity demand to increase from current levels by over 35% in 2035 and by over 70% in 2050. A new mix of secure home-grown energy generation, such as renewables and new nuclear, is being developed to meet this demand; securing our energy supply, decarbonising our power grid and lowering bills for consumers in the process.

This new generation will require the re-wiring of Great Britain to transport power from new generators to homes as new infrastructure is required to reinforce and modernise the National Grid. Around four times as much new electricity transmission network in Great Britain will be needed in the next seven years as has been built since 1990.

The Government is working at pace and in partnership with Ofgem, the Electricity System Operator and the Transmission Owners to ensure that new infrastructure is being delivered strategically and sensitively; enabling the acceleration of delivery and new innovative regulatory approaches to meet our nation's ambitious goals.

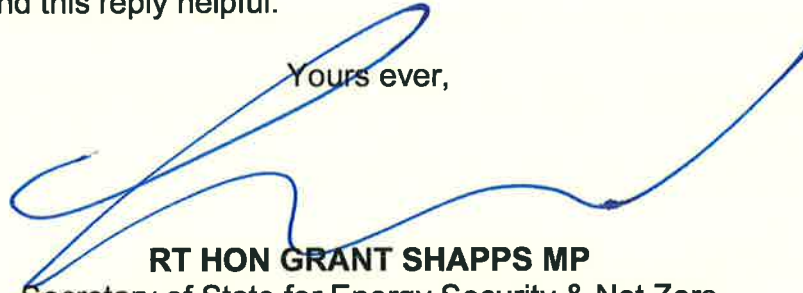
The UK Government engages regularly with ministerial counterparts in the Devolved Administrations through the Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change Inter-Ministerial Group. This bimonthly forum provides effective engagement on energy and climate change mitigation through information exchange, cooperation and collaboration in areas of shared interest. The subject of Grid investment and infrastructure was discussed at the April Inter-Ministerial Group meeting, with a further update from each government at the June meeting.

We recently welcomed the Electricity Networks Commissioner's report setting out recommendations to halve the total development time for transmission infrastructure. We recognise the fundamental change needed and have committed to publishing an Action Plan this year in response to his recommendations. In my letter thanking the Commissioner for his work, I acknowledge that new governance processes are required here, and we will look to consider options and set up the governance for the work this summer.

We will be in touch in due course after we have considered options and are better placed to discuss the proposal with your officials.

I hope you will find this reply helpful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

RT HON GRANT SHAPPS MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero