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Dear Jo

Third Round of Climate Change Adaptation Reporting

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update to Defra on the progress we have made in understanding the risks from Climate Change and the actions we have taken following our Second Round submission in June 2015.

As with our previous submissions in 2011 and 2015, we have worked with electricity industry and governmental colleagues through the Energy Networks Association (ENA) to develop a response to the challenges of adapting to climate change, but for this round we have also been joined by representatives of the gas distribution and transmission companies to produce a broader 'energy networks' view. We have attached the ENA report produced earlier this year as an appendix to this letter.

We have also attached a summary of the activities we are undertaking within Electricity North West to adapt to the consequences of a changing climate. In our previous reports we noted that our main areas of concern were:

- Increases in the number of extreme events;
- Increases in the number of flooding incidents;
- Accelerated vegetation growth; and
- Deterioration in the performance of our equipment due to increases in temperature.

Our summary position was:

“With the exception of flooding we expect that the impacts on our business from climate change will be gradual, largely indistinguishable from other factors, and that we will be able to deal with them with a long term approach”.

We have taken the opportunity of preparing this Third Round Report to review this, both internally and with our industry colleagues. We have also been informed by the updated UKCP18 climate projection data and have evaluated new emergent risks to our network. Our report shows that the



impact of more frequent and severe extreme events (eg wind storms and flooding) remains the main adaptation risk to our network and this continues to be the focus of our mitigation actions.

In 2021, we have also developed and submitted our proposals for the next price control period (RIIO-ED2, from 2023-2028) to our regulator, Ofgem. As part of this we have considered the future actions we need to take, both in terms of adapting our infrastructure and also changing our practices and processes to accommodate future climate change. This has resulted in our first published Climate resilience strategy, which sets out the specific actions we plan to undertake over the next six years. A copy of this strategy can be found here;

[RIIO-ED2 Annex-11-climate-resilience-strategy.pdf](#)

As we were finalising this report, Storm Arwen struck our region which had a major impact on our overhead line networks and a significant number of our customers. We were pleased with the resilience shown by our infrastructure but are always keen to learn lessons from such events, so we are better prepared for the future.

As such, we will be fully contributing to the reviews being led by both Ofgem and BEIS and looking to ensure that longer-term resilience and adaptation needs are appropriately reflected in Ofgem's Determinations for RIIO-ED2. We will also continue to participate in the newly-established ENA group on climate resilience and look to deepen our collaboration with our regional stakeholders and partners in the development of their own resilience plans.

We have committed to annually review our climate resilience strategy to ensure it continues to reflect evolving responses in this area. In advance of any fourth adaptation reporting round, this will be the best source for our contemporary view on adaptation risks and mitigating actions.

I hope this report provides an interesting and useful update on our adaptation actions. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Paul Bircham
Regulation and Communications Director