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Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
John McKenna  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
Level 3  
Orchard 2  
1 Victoria Street  
Westminster  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
**BY EMAIL ONLY**

20 February 2023

Dear Mr McKenna,

**THE NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC (SCOTLAND TO ENGLAND GREEN LINK 1) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2023 ("the CPO")**

I am instructed on behalf of the County Council of Durham of County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL ("the Council") in its capacity as the freehold owner of the land identified within the CPO Order Maps as plot 7-27 ("the Land").

The Council confirms that it wishes to **object** to the confirmation of the CPO for the following reasons:

1. The absence of a compelling case in the public interest to acquire compound rights over the Council's Land; and
2. The availability of an alternative solution which would avoid the need to compulsorily acquire the Council's Land.
3. The lack of detail provided by the Acquiring Authority to the Council in respect of the proposed works.

The CPO Guidance (as defined within the Statement of Reasons accompanying the CPO) is clear that, a compulsory purchase order should only be made in circumstances where there is a compelling case in the public interest.

**Resources**

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Having considered the Statement of Reasons accompanying the CPO, the Council does not consider that it sets out any compelling case in the public interest that would justify the compulsory acquisition of the Council's Land. In particular, the acquisition of compound rights and the use of the Land as a compound would cause the Council significant difficulties in reaching its aspiration to bring forward the development of the Jade Business Park, which is essential to the Council delivering much needed high value employment opportunities to the East of Durham.

In particular, the Council has offered alternative land to the Acquiring Authority ("The Alternative Land"). No justification has been provided as to why the Alternative Land would not be satisfactory to the Acquiring Authority and why it is necessary to acquire rights over the Council's Land when the Council believes that there is a satisfactory alternative available that would avoid the need to compulsorily acquire rights over the Council's Land.

The Council is also disappointed with the level of detail that has been provided to it in respect of the proposed construction works. For example, the Council considers that insufficient detail has been provided in respect of how soils will be dealt with.

For these reasons, the Council does not consider that the CPO ought to be confirmed by the Secretary of State in respect of plot 7-27.

On a more general point in respect of the Land and the Council's other land affected by the CPO, the Council is concerned about potential disruption that the cable might cause in terms of any future development or other use of its land. In this regard, the Council would request that the cable is installed at a depth of 1.2 m rather than 0.9 m so that it is less likely to cause any disruption in the future.

The Council reserves the right to make further submissions in respect of the CPO upon receipt of further information from the Acquiring Authority. These submissions are made without prejudice to any further objections that may be made by the Council.

Yours sincerely

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

Clare Cuskin  
Senior Lawyer (Regulatory and Enforcement)