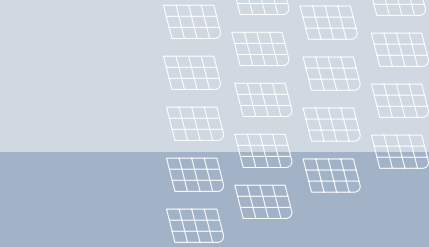


Annual Engagement Plan 2026–2027

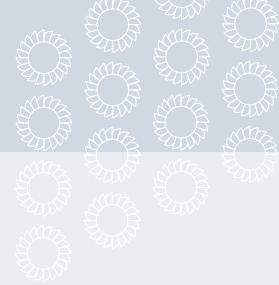




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Introduction

Our Annual Engagement Plan sets out the main topics that will form the basis of our engagement with stakeholders during 2026–2027. It explains why these topics matter, how stakeholders can engage with us, and how your feedback can help shape our approach.

The next five years will be crucial to the energy transition.

Our [Business Plan for RIIO-T3](#) (energy regulator Ofgem's five-year price control period for electricity transmission networks) will guide how we invest in and operate the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland from April 2026 to March 2031.

This investment is needed to ensure a safe and reliable energy supply, strengthen energy security, and help move more renewable electricity across Scotland and the wider GB network, supporting the transition to clean power.

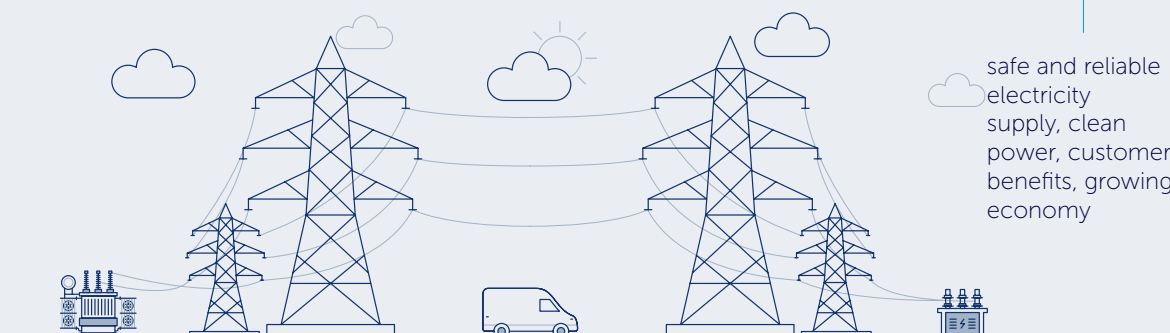
Our 2030 goals are focused on maintaining a safe and reliable electricity supply, enabling clean power, and delivering lasting benefits for consumers, communities, the economy and nature. This plan explains how engagement will support those goals.

Our engagement priorities reflect what we've heard from our diverse stakeholders – the businesses and supply chain companies we work with, regulators, policy makers, industry bodies, consumers, and the communities that host our projects – about what will be most important over the coming year.

As we deliver our Business Plan, we are listening to stakeholders and will be transparent with all those affected by our work.

The priorities in this plan are not intended to cover every conversation we will have during the year. Instead, they identify the areas where engagement is likely to be most valuable because it relates to complex decisions, areas where impacts are significant, or where stakeholders have asked for clearer information.

2030



safe and reliable electricity supply, clean power, customer benefits, growing economy



The topics prioritised for engagement in 2026–2027 are:

01.

Safe, reliable and responsible operations



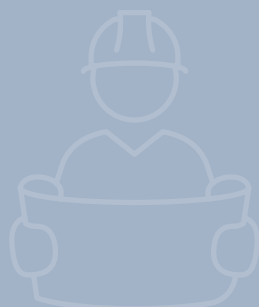
02.

Delivering critical new infrastructure and demonstrating progress



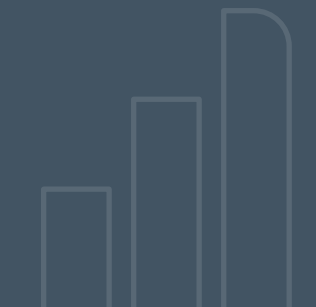
03.

Planning and consenting



04.

Cumulative impacts



05.

Affordability and value for money



06.

Delivering economic benefits



07.

Sustainability, nature and environmental impacts



08.

Customers and Connections Reform





Consultation on this plan

We will be consulting on this Draft Annual Engagement Plan between 7 and 20 September 2026. We would like our stakeholders to tell us whether these are the right priorities, whether anything important is missing, and how we can make our engagement more meaningful.

We are particularly interested in feedback on whether these priorities reflect the issues stakeholders expect to discuss with us during 2026–2027. We also welcome views on how we can make engagement more accessible, more joined up and more useful for decision-making.

You can respond by completing the [Draft Annual Engagement Plan Survey](#) or by emailing: transmission.stakeholder.engagement@sse.com.

After the consultation closes, we will review the feedback and use it to finalise and publish the Annual Engagement Plan. We will also consider how the feedback should influence the way we plan engagement activity throughout the year.

About SSEN Transmission

We own, operate and invest in the high-voltage electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland.

Our network consists of underground and subsea cables, overhead lines, and electricity converter stations and substations, and extends over a quarter of the UK's landmass, including some of its most challenging terrain.

Headquartered in Perth, we employ **more than 3,000 people** and are investing **around £29 billion** across the north of Scotland. We also support thousands of jobs through our supply chain, with investment in grid and renewable energy infrastructure projected to generate economic uplift equivalent to around **£60 billion** for the UK economy, while increasing Scottish GDP by up to **3%**, between **2026** and **2030**.

Our top priority is to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our communities. We transport electricity through our network for onwards distribution to homes and businesses across Great Britain.

We are investing in new and upgraded electricity transmission network infrastructure which will strengthen Scottish and UK energy security and help deliver the transition towards clean power.

The topics highlighted in this plan have been informed by the feedback we have received from our business-to-business and community stakeholders through our annual engagement surveys, as well as by colleagues across our business workstreams.

Perth

Headquarters

3,000

Employees

£29bn

investment across the north of Scotland

£60bn

economic uplift

3%

GDP increase between 2026 and 2030

Our engagement priorities for 2026–2027

1. Safe, reliable and responsible operations

Safety remains our number one priority.

- We will explain clearly our approach to maintaining and improving our network, how we manage any risks, how we prepare for severe weather, and how we keep electricity flowing reliably as our network develops.
- As our plans for grid upgrades and new infrastructure for 2030 and beyond increasingly move into construction, we will prioritise public safety and awareness raising campaigns, working closely with the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) and the emergency services.
- We will also explain how lessons from current projects are being used to improve future work and how we are ensuring our supply chain is working to the same safety standards we are.

2. Delivering critical new infrastructure, demonstrating progress and engaging with communities

When projects move into the delivery stage, we recognise that stakeholders will want to know what is happening, where, when and how. We will provide clear, accessible, easy to follow updates on our progress:

- We will set out key project milestones, with expected timelines.
- We will highlight anticipated changes and their implications for stakeholders.
- We will explain how risks are being managed.
- We will explain what project delivery is likely to mean for communities and other interested stakeholders at different stages.

Case study

Pathway to 2030 Safety, Health and Wellbeing: Driving collaboration across the supply chain

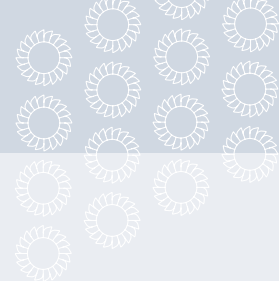
The Pathway to 2030 Safety, Health and Wellbeing (SHW) Strategy brings together SSEN Transmission and our contract partners to support the safe delivery of our future transmission network. As one of the largest infrastructure investment programmes in the UK, our work provides a unique opportunity to engage our supply chain to build a stronger, more consistent safety culture across the industry and support safer, healthier and more successful outcomes.

Early contractor engagement is central to this approach. By doing safety differently and working with our supply chain from the outset, our strategy helps embed safety by design into the delivery of our mega projects, rather than treating safety as something to be managed once work is already under way. It creates a space for open discussion, shared learning, innovative thinking and collaborative problem solving across organisations that may otherwise operate independently.

This supports action on traditional construction risks, such as plant and pedestrian interface, while also taking a wider view of wellbeing, culture and holistic risk. This is particularly important at a time of significant business growth, when increasing pace, scale and changes to our operating model could put pressure on the culture we want to protect and strengthen.

A recent example of this collaboration was a joint site visit involving supply chain partners at one of our major project locations near Peterhead. The visit gave leaders the chance to see activities first-hand, discuss safety challenges directly with project teams and share different perspectives on how risks can be managed effectively.





3. Planning and consenting

Timely planning decisions and discharge of conditions are essential if projects are to be delivered at the pace required to provide sufficient safe, reliable grid infrastructure to meet our society's need for clean, affordable electricity.

- We are committed to working constructively with planning authorities, statutory consultees and communities to improve understanding of planning and consenting processes, reduce uncertainty by setting clear expectations, whilst acknowledging that many aspects of this are statutory processes not under our direct control.
- We will explain the different stages of project development, from early design through to consent, construction and operation.
- We will help stakeholders understand when and how their feedback can help shape project design, which parts of projects they can influence, highlight opportunities to engage, and explain why some issues are determined by national policy or technical requirements.

4. Cumulative impacts

We recognise that in some parts of the north of Scotland, communities will be experiencing the development of several major projects at the same time.

- We will engage early, take a more joined-up view of local areas, explain cumulative impacts more clearly, and show how community feedback has been considered.
- We will take a place-based approach, looking at how all our work in a local area is experienced by host communities, not just how each individual project is delivered. Where possible, we will bring related conversations together, so stakeholders do not have to repeat the same points across separate projects or teams.
- We will explore any opportunities to have a joined-up approach to engagement with other developers within the confines of our business regulation.

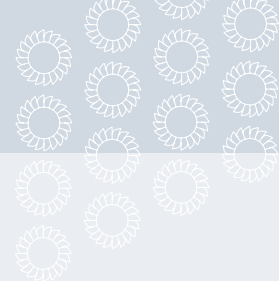
Case study

Peterhead Developers and Energy Transition Forums: Supporting local collaboration

The Peterhead Developers Forum brings together developers, asset owners and key stakeholders with an interest in projects in and around the Peterhead area. Recognising that multiple energy projects are progressing simultaneously, the Forum provides a valuable platform for organisations to share information, coordinate activity, discuss upcoming works and identify opportunities for collaboration. This helps improve communication, reduce duplication and support a more joined-up approach to engagement with communities and stakeholders.

Through our involvement in the Peterhead Energy Transition Forum, we have been able to strengthen relationships with developers, local authorities and industry partners while supporting the wider energy ambitions of the area. By working collaboratively and sharing updates on projects such as our Netherton Hub and wider network development activity, these forums have helped to create greater awareness of planned investment, identify shared challenges and opportunities, and contribute towards a coordinated approach to delivering the infrastructure needed to support Scotland's energy transition and net zero ambitions.





5. Affordability and value for money

Our investment in grid infrastructure contributes to a complex, highly regulated UK-wide energy system that is evolving rapidly to support the transition to clean power.

- We are committed to delivering value for money – for public bodies, for our investors and shareholders, for the businesses, consumers and communities we work with.
- We will make responsible, accountable investment decisions in line with all regulatory requirements.
- We will demonstrate how our upgrades to grid infrastructure will play an essential role in bringing down energy costs in the longer term.

6. Delivering economic benefits

Our investment in grid infrastructure is supporting economic development, especially in the regions where we are delivering projects.

- We will improve visibility of our project pipelines to help suppliers plan workforce investment.
- We will engage with policy makers and education providers to prepare for future workforce needs and address skills constraints.
- As part of our place-based approach, we will demonstrate how our investment is providing social value through:



supporting and creating jobs, including apprenticeship opportunities



driving skills and workforce development



strengthening opportunities for local supply chains



delivering new housing through our Housing Strategy



providing support for community projects through our Community Benefit Fund

Case study

Murphy: investing in a long-term Highland workforce

SSEN Transmission's investment programme is supporting major contractors to establish and grow a permanent presence in the north of Scotland. Murphy has opened a dedicated hub at Fyrish House in Alness to support its work on major transmission infrastructure projects. The company plans to grow its Alness workforce from around 80 people to more than 100, alongside a wider ambition to support around 1,000 jobs across the Highlands.

The investment includes recruitment across engineering, construction and project management roles, as well as opportunities for local businesses. By providing greater visibility of future infrastructure investment, SSEN Transmission can help suppliers plan ahead, invest in people and skills, and build long-term capability in the communities where projects are being delivered.





7. Sustainability, nature and environmental impacts.

As our projects move from the planning to delivery phase, it becomes more important than ever to understand and manage environmental impacts, our Sustainability Action Plan helps guide this.

- We will explain how we are managing environmental impacts, supporting biodiversity, reducing carbon and working with partners to improve outcomes for nature and local places.
- We will share information on how we assess impacts, avoid or reduce harm where possible, and look for opportunities to improve biodiversity, landscape outcomes and long-term environmental value.

8. Customers and Connections Reform.

Customer engagement is a key priority as we support through Connections Reform and into RIIO-T3. Through industry events, customer webinars and targeted briefings, we have improved customer understanding of connection processes, timelines and reform requirements. We have engaged Phase 1 customers providing early visibility of connection scope, programme and costs. Close collaboration with NESO has strengthened coordination on connection offers, technical queries and customer issues, improving transparency and consistency of communications.

- During 2026/27, we will continue to support customers through webinars, updated guidance and targeted engagement. As we are now in the RIIO-T3 period, our focus will be on supporting Phase 2 customers, embedding the agreed servicing model and helping customers transition into the enduring connection application process.
- The Quality of Connections (QoC) survey has provided valuable customer insight throughout RIIO-T2. In 2025/26, we achieved our highest QoC satisfaction score of 8.8/10, exceeding Ofgem's baseline of 7.7/10. In RIIO-T3, customer feedback will continue to be captured through the new Quality of Service (QoS) survey. Our focus during 2026/27 will be on embedding QoS and ensuring customer insight continues to drive service improvement and decision-making.



How we will engage

Our engagement will be clear, timely and proportionate, as set out in our [Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Action Plan](#).

We will use plain language, explain trade-offs honestly, and tailor information to the needs of different audiences. This includes (but is not limited to) communities, local authorities, governments, regulators, statutory consultees, customers, suppliers, investors, education partners and environmental organisations.

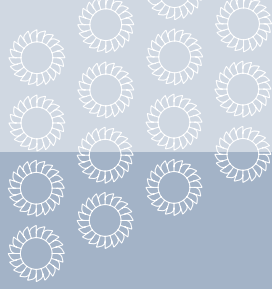
We will aim to engage early, make it clear where stakeholders can influence decisions, and report back on what we have heard and how feedback has been used. Where projects affect the same place or the same groups of people, we will seek to coordinate engagement so conversations are easier to follow.

We will use a mix of engagement methods depending on the topic and audience. This may include meetings, briefings, workshops, community events, written updates, surveys, online information, and direct discussions with affected organisations.

The format will depend on what stakeholders need to know and how they prefer to engage.

Good engagement does not mean that every stakeholder will agree with every decision. It does mean that people should understand the reasons for decisions, the evidence used, the options considered and the ways their feedback has been taken into account.





Accessibility and getting in touch

We want our information to be accessible and easy to use. If you would like a printed copy of this document, or need it in another format such as large print, please contact us.

We also want to make engagement inclusive. If there are barriers that make it harder for you or your organisation to take part, please tell us and we will consider what adjustments can be made.

Email: Transmission.Stakeholder.Engagement@sse.com

Write to: SSEN Transmission, Grampian House,
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3GH

