

SEEN Transmission

Grampian House
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth
PH1 3AQ

Energy Consents Unit
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
GL2 8LU

22nd July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to install, operate and keep installed a permanent diversion, consisting of an 'In' leg: Diversion of the existing 400 kV overhead line (OHL) from a point approximately 8.6 kilometres (km) west of the Peterhead Substation into Netherton Hub via a new 400 kV OHL, approximately 3.3 km in length and an 'Out' leg: Connection from Netherton Hub back out to a point on the existing OHL approximately 5.0 km west of Peterhead Substation via a new 400 kV OHL, approximately 2.0 km in length. The Proposed Development also includes downleads to the substations and temporary diversions.

In total, the Proposed Development would comprise approximately 6.9 km of new OHL.

The Proposed Development is known as the New Deer to Peterhead OHL tie—in.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant) operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (hereafter referred to as 'SEEN Transmission'), owns operates and develops the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and the islands and holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.

SEEN Transmission submits this application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the installation and operation of the proposed **New Deer to Peterhead OHL tie-in** (the Proposed Development).

The Applicant also seeks a direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

Development for which Section 37 Consent and deemed planning permission is sought

- Approximately 3.3 km of new 400 kV OHL between a point of diversion from the existing 400 kV OHL to Netherton Hub ('In' leg) and approximately 2.0 km of new 400 kV OHL from the Netherton Hub to another point of diversion of the existing 400 kV OHL;
- Construction of 18 new steel lattice towers and two temporary towers; and
- Construction of temporary OHL diversions (approximately 1.6 km) to facilitate the permanent modifications to existing OHLs required to construct the Proposed Development.

Please refer to **Volume 1, Chapter 2: Project Description** for more details.

In total, the Proposed Development would comprise approximately 6.9 km of new OHL.

Ancillary Development for which Deemed Planning Permission is sought

- Removal of approximately 3.7 km of the redundant section of the existing 400 kV OHL including the removal of 12 redundant towers;
- The upgrade of existing, or creation of new, bellmouths at public road access points;
- The formation of access tracks (permanent, temporary, and upgrades to existing tracks);
- Working areas around infrastructure to facilitate construction;
- Formation of flat areas from which the conductor will be pulled during construction, which will contain earthed metal working surfaces referred to as Equipotential Zones ('EPZs');
- Vegetation clearance and management;
- Other temporary measures required during construction, such as measures to protect road and water crossings during construction (scaffolding etc.); and
- Public road improvements which would be required in some areas to facilitate construction traffic.

Please refer to **Volume 1, Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development** for more details.

Established Need for the Proposed Development

Significant volumes of new renewable generation are expected to connect to the SSEN Transmission network, resulting in much greater bulk power transfer requirements on all major SSEN Transmission boundaries. A strategic hub at Peterhead is required for the purpose of establishing a common and coordinated approach to development for the future network reinforcements as identified in the Holistic Network Design to meet the UK's 2030 net zero targets. This holistic approach to project planning and development was considered necessary to maximise the potential efficiencies which comes from a single coordinated and collocated development site for both Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC) transmission infrastructure in the region. This collective development will substantially strengthen the local transmission network and support new onshore and offshore connections, such as those created through the Scotwind offshore lease rounds. Furthermore, it will help facilitate the export of future renewable generation from the North of Scotland to demand centres throughout the UK.

The diversion of the existing New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL into a 400 kV AC substation (the 'Netherton Hub') is required to integrate the new substation site into the existing network and maximise the transfer capability between the new Hub substation and the wider transmission network to increase network security.

Further details are outlined in **Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction**

To ensure compliance with the terms of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'), the Applicant submitted a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion, to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in April 2025. An EIA Screening Opinion (ECU Ref ECU00006167), was adopted by the ECU in July 2025, which determined that the Proposed Development does not constitute EIA development in terms of the EIA Regulations, but outlined environmental topics which should be considered further as part of the Section 37 application.

The Applicant is therefore submitting a voluntary Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) which evaluates whether any specific environmental effects are likely to occur as a result of the Proposed Development.

The Applicant has also prepared a Habitats Regulation Appraisal, and other supporting documents including a Planning Statement, Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) are included with the application. **Annex 1** to this letter includes a list of all documentation forming part of the application for consent.

Additional Information supporting the application for consent

The Applicant has prepared a number of Supporting Documents which are submitted with the application for consent. These documents satisfy the requirement for information in relation to the pre-application consultation measures the Applicant has undertaken in advance of the submission of the application for consent, and also an assessment of the Proposed Development against the provisions of the relevant Development Plan. These documents take the form of a Planning Statement, Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA).

The Supporting Documents also include information that the Applicant considers to be of relevance to the Proposed Development but that relates to topics that were scoped out of the EA Report. This includes an Aviation Risk Assessment Report, Electric and Magnetic Field Study Report, and a Socio-Economic Report.

Annex 1 to this letter includes a list of all documentation forming part of the application for consent.

In accordance with the Scottish Government's *Priority Applications for Transmission Infrastructure guidance: Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989*, this letter sets out below the measures taken by the Applicant and details the contents of the application (with references to specific locations within the EAR Report where relevant) to satisfy the requirements of the guidance and ensure that a complete application has been submitted. The information below is based on the list of requirements included in Section 7 of the above referenced guidance.

It is the Applicant's view that that all necessary environmental information has been submitted with the application to enable the Scottish Ministers to undertake an assessment of the Proposed Development and arrive at a determination of consent.

Priority Applications for Transmission Infrastructure guidance Requirement	Submission Location Reference
Location plan and site plan, showing clearly and at appropriate scale the location of all infrastructure for which section 37 consent and deemed planning permission (where relevant) is sought, including towers or poles, and any ancillary development;	The location of the Proposed Development is located within the EA Report at Volume 2, Figure 1.1 Site Location Plan and Figure 1.2 Site Layout Plan A Location Plan is also submitted with the application. A description of the Proposed Development is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development.
The entirety of the environmental information required in an EIA report, where the proposal is deemed to be EIA development;	The Applicant is submitting a Voluntary EAR, this application is not subject to an EIA. However, the responses received from the ECU Screening Opinion are covered in the information New Deer to Peterhead OHL tie—in EA Report as listed in Annex 1 that accompanies this cover letter. A number of Supporting Documents are also submitted with the application; these documents provide information additional to that contained within the EIA Report. The Supporting Documents are also listed in Annex 1.
An explanation of how all the scoping responses from statutory consultees have been addressed (for EIA developments);	The Applicant is submitting a Voluntary EAR, this application is not subject to an EIA. However, the responses received from the ECU Screening Opinion are covered in the information New Deer to Peterhead OHL tie—in EA Report as listed in Annex 1 that accompanies this cover letter.
Details of the established need for and of the anticipated benefits of the project;	Details of the established need for the project are outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction .
A detailed explanation of all alternative options considered and why discounted;	Details of alternative options considered by the Applicant for the project are outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development .

A pre-application consultation report setting out the information provided to the public and procedures carried out, and how comments received from the public have been considered in formulating the final design of the proposal;	A Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report) has been prepared by the Applicant; this details the public consultation and engagement conducted by the Applicant in advance of the submission of the application and summarises how feedback has been considered in the finalisation of the design of the proposal. The PAC Report is included as a Supporting Document to the application.
A planning statement;	A Planning Statement has been prepared by the Applicant; this details an assessment of the Proposed Development against the relevant provisions of the Development Plan. The Planning Statement is included as a Supporting Document to the application.
A schedule of mitigation measures;	The EIA Report includes suggested mitigation within each technical assessment included as part of the overall report; this information is collated into a single Schedule of Mitigation at Volume 1, Chapter 13 Summary of Mitigation Issues .
A suggested set of conditions based on ECU 'model' section 37 conditions	A set of model conditions requires to be agreed between ECU and the Planning Authority; it is expected that this set of conditions will become available during the determination period of the application.
A statement confirming the Applicant's view that that all necessary environmental information has been submitted with the application, and that it does not anticipate the need to propose any substantive changes to the development	The Applicant confirms, by virtue of this cover letter, that in its view all necessary environmental information has been submitted with the application. At the point of application substantive changes are not anticipated.
A statement confirming whether all the required wayleaves have been agreed with the owners and occupiers of the land proposed to be crossed by the line and whether it is proposed that any Applications may be made to the Scottish Ministers under paragraph 6 of schedule 4 to the Electricity Act 1989, or that an order is proposed to be made under schedule 3 to the Act	The Applicant has engaged in discussions with all identified landowners and occupiers over whose land the Proposed Development would be required to cross. All voluntary wayleaves and tenant consents for 400 kV infrastructure for the Proposed Development have now been issued and a number of agreements are in place. Following submission of the S37 application, 21-day statutory notices will be issued to any affected

	parties requiring consent who have not returned signed wayleaves or tenant consents. In the event agreement is not received from relevant parties within 21-days of notice issue, the Applicant will apply for a necessary wayleave/tenant consent under paragraph 6 of Schedule 4 of the Electricity Act 1989. For any third party-only access consents that are not received voluntarily, orders will be made under Schedule 3 of the Electricity Act 1989. It is the Applicant's intention to continue all voluntary discussions whilst any statutory processes take place.
All other supporting application documents including a cover letter which includes a description of all of the components of the development requiring consent and deemed planning permission (including the length of the proposed line and its nominal voltage), designed for inclusion in any consent decision	A list of all documentation submitted in support of this application is included as Annex 1 to this cover letter. This includes further details of the following elements of the EA Report: - - Volume 1 Main Text - Volume 2 Figures - Volume 3 Appendices A list of Supporting Documents is also included in Annex 1.

The application fee of £4800 has been paid via two BACS transfer with reference number ECU00006167. The Fee has been calculated using the ECU fee calculator based on EIA development and a total OHL length of 6.9 km.

We look forward to receiving formal confirmation of receipt of this application. In the meantime, should you have any queries or require further information, please contact me on the details above.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Cane-Ritchie CEnv MCIEEM MAPM
Senior Consents and Environment Manager

ANNEX 1 LIST OF DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION FOR CONSENT

Location Plan

EA Report

Volume 1: Main Text

Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Description of Proposed Development
Chapter 3: Planning Context
Chapter 4: Approach to Appraisal
Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual
Chapter 6: Cultural Heritage
Chapter 7: Ecology
Chapter 8: Ornithology
Chapter 9: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils
Chapter 10: Forestry and Land Use
Chapter 11: Noise Environment
Chapter 12: Cumulative Appraisal
Chapter 13: Summary of Mitigation Measures

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Viewpoint 6: Toddlehills looking west - Sheet 6: Cumulative

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Volume 3: Appendix 7.3 - Badger Technical Report (Confidential)
Volume 3: Appendix 7.4 - Biodiversity Net Gain Report
Volume 3: Appendix 7.5 Species Protection Plans
Volume 3: Appendix 8.1 Habitats Regulation Appraisal
Volume 3: Appendix 9.1 PWSRA
Volume 3: Appendix 11.1 Glossary of Acoustic Terms
Volume 3: Appendix 11.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
Volume 3: Appendix 11.3 Sensitive Receptors
Volume 3: Appendix 11.4 Construction Activities
Volume 3: Appendix 11.5 Baseline Noise Levels

Supporting Documents

- Planning Statement
- Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report)
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report