6 February 2023

GC40154

Dear Ms Bolton, XLinks

Thank you for writing to me about the proposed XLinks project. I believe we shall hear soon from the developers as to how and when the next public consultation will be carried out. I am monitoring the matter closely and, provided I am satisfied with the programme of consultation, have agreed to chair a public meeting in Alverdiscott before it concludes, at which I have requested the CEO of XLinks to be present to answer questions from local residents.

On your second point, I have indeed raised the subject of alternative access points to the National Grid. My initial enquiries have given me to understand that other possible sites were considered but were deemed not to be viable. For example, at Hinckley point, the nuclear power station owners have a veto over any significant access to the National Grid in its vicinity and were unlikely to agree. That is understandable since before making the investment necessary to build a nuclear power station, the developer would want to know that power could get onto the grid without delay or interruption. I also understand that, if the project goes ahead, the National Grid will be investing in extending the main grid closer to Alverdiscott to enable power to be fed onto it directly.

I would expect XLinks to make this type of detail available to residents during the forthcoming consultation period and I shall be making further enquiries of the National Grid about the information I have been given. I am in direct touch with the minister responsible for agreeing aspects of the project and I know the Government, as you would expect, is giving it close and careful scrutiny.

Thank you for contacting me on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to do so again if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



pp. Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Cox KC MP

(dictated by Geoffrey Cox but signed in his absence)

I will treat as confidential all personal information you give to me or to my staff. I may need to pass on this information to others so that they can help you. I undertake to handle the information you give me in line with requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. For more information, visit [www.geoffreycox.co.uk/privacy.](http://www.geoffreycox.co.uk/privacy)