



Paul Swift & Phil McMenemy
Galloway without Pylons
By email only

01 March 2019

Dear Paul, Phil,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me in Dumfries on Monday, 25th February to discuss your concerns regarding the SPEN Kendoon to Tongland Reinforcement Project.

I fully appreciate that the group's immediate concern is to preserve the natural environment of the area and the long-term impact that the pylons may have on our landscape, and I share these concerns. The scenery and natural environment in our region is unrivalled, and we must do all we can to ensure that this is protected not only for tourism and business at present, but for generations to come.

I fully appreciate that the current electricity transmission network is near the end of its operational life and needs to be updated. However, it is vital that the region's beautiful landscapes are not compromised during the construction of the project, and long after the works have concluded.

I understand that there are many benefits to using underground cables, such as fewer faults, low maintenance, not susceptible to shaking and shorting due to wind, accidents or vibrations, and do not have high impact on the landscape. For these reasons, I support undergrounding where possible.

I am confident that SPEN are fully aware of the concerns of local people following the consultation period, and acknowledge that there are many factors involved in identifying the best possible cable routes. As well as engaging with the public, SPEN are engaging with each project team member to ensure that feasible routes are identified, and that there is ongoing assessment of the project. It is a priority for SPEN to continually engage with the public on this matter and I will continue to request updates from SPEN regarding the project, and will share any updates I receive with the group.

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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



I recognise all the hard work that Galloway without Pylons are doing to help protect and enhance all that our region has to offer, and I fully support the group in their endeavour.

Please do not hesitate to get back in touch with me if I can be of any further assistance in future with this or any other matter.

Yours sincerely,

Emma

Emma Harper MSP
South Scotland Region