



Sinn Féin response to: SONI Governance Consultation

SONI plays a key role as the electricity transmission system operator as well as in supporting and delivering on energy policy. This is particularly important in the context of the new energy strategy which is currently in development.

It is important that SONI's governance arrangements provide effective oversight and transparency to protect domestic and business customers, now and into the future, as we respond to the climate emergency by decarbonising on the basis of a just transition - and in the context of the economic and societal recovery from the pandemic.

It is also vital that there are no impediments to the operation of the Single Electricity Market including in terms of investment in infrastructure across the island.

In relation to policy, it is important that there is cooperation and alignment on an all-island basis including on climate and energy policy where there are clearly transboundary issues.

Previously, with regards to SONI's approach to electrical infrastructure there has been a lack of proper public engagement that takes on board the views of citizens and communities who have to live in the immediate area of the infrastructural developments.

It is vital that community buy-in is integral to SONI's process, as it is important that large scale infrastructure projects garner the support of local communities so that everyone experiences the benefits they are intended to provide.

In conclusion, it must be asserted that protecting consumers, engaging in proper public engagement and ensuring transparency must drive outcomes in relation to the governance model, rather than any political motivation.