

Rowan Tunnicliffe
SONI Limited
Castlereagh House
12 Manse Road
Belfast
BT6 9RT

Ref: NET/E/EC/1269

03 July 2025

Dear Rowan,

Re: TNP Opex – Final SFUt approval for TY2024-25

Thank you for the transmission network planning (TNP) opex (*SFUt*) submission of the 02 July 2024 regarding the request for recovery of consultancy costs associated with Coolkeeragh environmental studies and 275kV substation redesigns.

Having reviewed the submission and SONI's response to the PD, we are content to re-instate Coolkeeragh feasibility study costs as per the updated expenditure profile. However, we see no need for further allowance for communications or contingency.

For confirmation, under *Annex 1 – para 2.2(h)(ii)(D)* of SONI's licence, amounts finally approved via the *SFUt* term are detailed in the table below by tariff year [and in 2019 prices for ease of comparison with the current price control].

Tariff Year	SONI Claim (April 2024 prices)	UR Allowance (April 2024 prices)	UR Allowance (April 2019 prices)
2024-25	£1.14m	£1.08m	£0.88m
Total	£1.14m	£1.08m	£0.88m

Unresolved Issues

The final allowance affords the vast majority (c.94%) of the request. A spreadsheet detailing our calculations is provided alongside this letter. However, in summary there are two main issues with the current request.

Issue 1 – Coolkeeragh Feasibility Costs

We welcome the revised cost profile and the explanations provided for the delays and cost increases. We have re-instated the expenditure as per the new profile but note

that the expected expenditure in TY2024-25 is still lower than the original cost request for this environmental study activity.

Issue 2 – Communications & Contingency

SONI already has communications funding as part of base opex allowances. With respect to the substation costs, we also stated in the PD letter that, “*we would expect efficiencies to be delivered in future iterations of this work given the similarity of activities.*” Additional allowance for communications or contingency therefore seems unnecessary on this occasion.

I trust this satisfies your requirements at this time. Any comments to this letter should be addressed to John Mills and Ciara Brennan.

Yours sincerely,



Elaine Cassidy
Price Controls Director