

Utility Regulator  
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12 February 2026

Dear John,

### **Response to Utility Regulator's Draft Forward Work Programme 2026/2027**

Transmission Investment (TI) is a leading independent electricity transmission business in the UK, with over ten years of experience developing, acquiring and managing large complex infrastructure projects. We are one of the largest managers of offshore wind transmission in GB, in total we currently manage a portfolio of approximately 4GW and £3bn in capital employed. Transmission Investment is also leading the development of interconnector projects in support of the UK's Net Zero ambition. This includes a proposed 700MW link from Northern Ireland to Scotland, LirIC, as well as the FAB Link interconnector between GB and France. Since April 2025, Transmission Investment is now fully owned by TAQA Transmission, the TAQA Group subsidiary responsible for the development and operation of TAQA's high voltage power and bulk water transmission infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Utility Regulator's Draft Forward Work Programme 2026/2027 ("Draft FWP"). As stated in our previous response to the Utility Regulator's Draft Corporate Strategy 2024-29, we are supportive overall of the Utility Regulator's strategic objectives to support net zero goals. In particular, it is welcomed that interconnection is recognised as being part of the efficient solution to secure the electricity supply for Northern Ireland, as well as supporting the efficient integration and use of renewable energy sources.

We welcome the commitments under Strategic Objective 2, in the Draft FWP, to establish the frameworks required for interconnectors within this coming year's programme. This next phase needs to progress on plan to meet Ofgem's conditions for the project to be operational by the end of 2032 to deliver the expected economic benefits to Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

We encourage the Utility Regulator to continue its work with the Department for the Economy, and its counterparts in Great Britain, to consider how benefits can be maximised for Northern Ireland and the UK.

We recognise there is significant work in other related areas, such as the framework for offshore wind and firm access and continue to support the expansion of the Utility Regulator staff to have the capacity to keep with the pace to deliver on the energy transition (rather than having to 'pick a winner' by prioritising progress in one area over another). A fully staffed regulator is critical in accelerating the industry change, to facilitate the unprecedented investment necessary for meeting Northern Ireland's Net Zero ambition.

We look forward to working with the Utility Regulator in due course to deliver the actions and policies that will enable these important investments to be made, and if there are any questions on the content of this letter, we would be happy to discuss them.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Fitch  
Corporate Development Director, for and on behalf of TI LirIC