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Elena Ardines  
Utility Regulator  
Queens House  
14 Queen Street  
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20 February 2014

Dear Elena

**Consultation on Draft Corporate Strategy 2014-19 and Draft Forward Work Programme (FWP) 2014-15**

NIE welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Utility Regulator's consultation paper. We have the following comments.

An additional workstream should be added to progress the changes to electricity connection charge policy that will be required if the Competition Commission's Final Determination for RP5 does not include a RAB based allowance for (i) reinforcement of the 33kV network for small scale renewable generation and/or (ii) the connection of housing sites with twelve or more dwellings. It will be important to progress these changes expeditiously in consultation with renewables developers and housing site developers.

Given the significance of the project to develop arrangements for smart metering (project 32), it should be accorded 'flagship' status.

In Project 28 (...implementation of the Energy Bill) the reference to offshore electricity licensing arrangements should be extended to include a reference to offshore generator connections as there is work to be done to determine the optimal regulatory and legal arrangements.

Yours sincerely

**Carl Hashim**  
**Regulation Officer**

L 140220 – Response to 5yr Strategy and 14-15 FWP



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