

Electricity Act 1989

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

DPEA Code of Practice

Tealing to Kintore OHL – reference TRL-120-1

Community Consultation; Jonathan Rose

The TKUP pylon development is infrastructure designed and chosen by SSEN, a private company working as the monopoly contractor for the UK government. It is adhering to its interpretation of the guidelines developed by ESO and later NESO for a balanced grid, supplying at least 169 GW renewable power to the UK of which Scotland could supply at least 49 GW.

There has been **no effective community consultation** in this planning application. In this regard SSEN simply provided presentations where communities were told what is happening with requests for feedback on the final plan. As a member of the rural community I want to protect the productive land, the landscape, my mental health and all of the homes affected by these pylons. These elements of the process of EIA are not adequately addressed in the application.

The design has been firmly rejected at all official meetings, with requests to do something more suitable for rural residents, using technology and designs which are more appropriate to the 21st century. The current design uses technology developed many decades ago. The exported environmental impacts have not been fully assessed.

There are other design solutions which over the lifetime of this infrastructure and the current uncertainties in electricity demand are likely to be of lower cost in the long term

It is only because of SSEN's consultation failings that this public inquiry is happening.

NESO, formed in July 2025, now holds the independent responsibility for defining what is needed for the UK to deliver clean energy. A strategy is being developed by NESO to get the best system which satisfies energy security, environmental requirements and community impacts. Scotland has been developing its own renewables portfolio through spatial planning for over 30 years despite 'Energy' being a matter reserved to the UK government.

To quote the NESO 2025 annual balancing cost report

'People are at the heart of the energy transition, and as Great Britain decarbonises, we will be a trusted independent voice for all, considering costs and the tough challenges, ultimately delivering the fairest result.'

We are working with industry to deploy new, world first technologies and services to balance the system, drive innovation and growth in the energy sector and create new opportunities for both businesses and consumers.'

The strategic spatial energy plan (SSEP) of the UK government, which the Scottish and Welsh governments commissioned in December 2024 does not have any community involvement at any level. This is a critical piece of work that requires the community voice.

From the community point of view, the issues selected for this inquiry process has been made on the basis of normal practice, which in this case is for an application which is beyond normal practice. The choice shows unwillingness by the independent representatives of the planning process to adjust to the new network authority, NESO, and consider seriously the representation from the community on technical matters.

The public inquiry process is the only time community involvement is considered and is presented as an objection to the already designed infrastructure plan. This process is unsatisfactory in terms of resources expended to do this at the very end of the design process. Options other than 'grant' or 'refuse' are not available to communities.

The right thing needs to be done here and it needs to be done right. That is the essence of sound planning. The design of the OHL needs to be reviewed with renewed intense community consultation that has an effective voice and is included at the advisory level.

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8 May 2026