

Electricity Act 1989

Tealing to Kintore OHL Inquiry TRL-120-1

## COMMUNITY HEARING STATEMENT BY FIONA MEARS

I am Fiona Mears. I am a retired Geologist/Palynologist living at Upper Park on Royal Deeside, my home being directly adjacent to the proposed SSEN TKUP OHL route.

### **Need**

I understand that Scotland is self-sufficient in electricity, so we have no need for this OHL, the aim of which is to facilitate the transfer of electricity primarily from Scottish windfarms to densely populated areas of England. An obvious solution to any shortage of power in England would be to build electricity generation systems close to where the power is required, rather than generate it in the North of Scotland and transport it the length of the UK.

### **Alternatives**

SSEN have failed to release information to prove that they have adequately assessed alternatives to the use of pylons (1920's technology), when modern alternatives such as undergrounding HVDC, or subsea cabling are viable options, being used in Europe, that would be much less damaging to the Scottish countryside, and therefore more acceptable to local communities.

### **Agriculture & Wildlife**

The fields around our home are farmed for barley, silage, cattle and sheep. The loss of such farming land to concrete pylon footings and OHLs is alarming. Scotland should be striving to be self sufficient in food production rather than giving over valuable farmland to industrial infrastructure.

The loss of local wildlife habitat to this scheme will be immeasurable. The fields here support red kites, red squirrels, badgers, deer, pine martins, owls, buzzards. Great flocks of graylag geese and sky larks annually use the fields to rest and raise young. Bats are a common sight, including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and brown long eared bats. These would all be severely impacted by the OHL.

### **Property Devaluation**

The visual impact of the entire scheme will damage our beautiful Scottish countryside for generations to come, and the resultant impact on our valuable tourism industry must not be underestimated.

The visual impact locally across an area of outstanding natural beauty such as Royal Deeside will be abhorrent, and at Upper Park we will never get used to a run of 70m high pylons directly in front of, and only 259m from homes.

Devaluation of property and inability to sell is obviously of huge concern to us and very much part of our amenity. Galbraith independent property consultants issued warnings to homeowners along this proposed OHL that we collectively stand to lose £1 million per mile on the values of our properties as a result of the scheme. Another report by them indicates a

reduction in value of homes of between 10% and over 20%, with bigger reductions for higher value properties. This is further supported by LSE Business Review. Other authors have cited a 40% devaluation.

Our own home will directly face one pylon as well as having easy sight of two others in the field straight in front of our home, in addition to seeing two more pylons in the field to the east of our house, and having a clear view of the continuation of the OHL rising up the south side of the Dee valley opposite.

At the Echt 'Consultation' I was advised that 'there is no mechanism for compensation' for devaluation. Clearly this is completely unacceptable to homeowners like us who stand to lose hundreds of thousands of pounds in devaluation as a direct result of this project.

### **Health**

We have serious concerns regarding the physical health implications of living in close proximity to a 400 kV OHL. The effects of the EMF and noise on nearby householders has not been fully addressed by SSEN. Issues such as an increase in cancers, particularly childhood leukemia are well documented. I've also read of increased lung and throat cancers caused by breathing in the electromagnetic particles disseminating from the OHL. The 13 properties at Upper Park are directly down wind of the proposed OHL and I remain convinced that these particles may cause us all great harm.

In addition, I have a pacemaker and am concerned about the impact upon my pacemaker of living so close to a 400kV OHL with its associated EMFs. I requested references to published literature on this from the SSEN reps at the Echt Consultation, in order to satisfy myself that their vague assurances that all will be fine are accurate, however despite taking note of my details and promising to get back to me, no one from SSEN has responded.

Before this OHL plan became publicly known my husband and I were both healthy, fit and active, in our early 60's and enjoying retirement. In the intervening period we have both been diagnosed with cancer. I defy anyone to say that the stress, the sleepless nights, the uncertainty that SSEN's plans have heaped upon us, has not contributed to making us both ill.

### **Conclusions**

I ask the Reporters to please listen to the affected communities, and recommend refusal of this planning application.

FIONA MEARS

15 May 2026