

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
DPEA CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ELECTRICITY ACT INQUIRIES**

TEALING TO KINTORE UPGRADE PROJECT (TKUP) TRI-120-1

Community Hearing Statement for Mrs SHEILA MATHER, Balmadity Farm, Fern, Brechin

I am Mrs. Sheila Mather of Balmadity Farm, Fern, near Brechin. My view of this application is that by choosing to scope out agriculture, SSEN are being duplicitous.

Their submissions to consent unit suggest that have chosen to portray agriculture in the 1960s, not the 2020s. On Balmadity and Boggie alone, we may lose 93 acres of prime agricultural land from arable and potato production.

Prior to July 2024 we believed that the proposed corridors would have minimal impact on our operations if the OHL utilised a small part of our farm on our southern periphery with woodland. However, it became clear by September 2024 that the present route, more than 1 Km north of the previous corridor and through the middle of the farm was their preferred route.

An alternative was offered by ourselves and neighbour land owners at Farmerton, Milton of Balhall and Dunswood, late in the timetabling "consultations". These 4.5 km corridors would have greatly reduced the impact on our respective businesses going forward as well as our amenity. But was not acted on, although by using SSEN's own measurements, it was found to have less impact.

SSEN **know** that due to the sag of the line, it would be a threat to life, for agricultural workers. Their calculations are not based on the size of machinery used today. Other are dealing with that and I do not want to repeat what they have to say.

There is an extensive water network served by our private water supply that is in excess of a century old that contains asbestos bearing pipes. The supply is used for human consumption as well as watering livestock and other agricultural operations. SSEN's proposals regarding this are far from adequate and their submission to ECU in no way reflects the true situation.

SSEN propose to use our track network which is utilised on a daily basis for management of our livestock and cropping. Having recently had their East Coast upgrade take place over other land we manage, we are not reassured that their respect and timeliness of maintenance, of others property, that they or their contractors damage, is good enough.

In addition, I have twice recently required an ambulance and worry about access for emergency vehicles.

Biosecurity is vitally important, as the machinery, men and construction equipment move from farm to farm. Mr Thornton-Kemsley is clear on the risks to the potato trade posed by PCN. Once again, I don't want to repeat what he has to say.

By scoping out agriculture, SSEN have deliberately ignored the ground lost to food production. In these uncertain times, food security is becoming ever more vital.

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) particularly Section 2.

The proposal is:

2.1 ..."of such a nature and / or magnitude that potentially affects living conditions or Residential Amenity - "yes". 171 metres right in front of my door!

2.2 ..."overwhelming / overbearing" or "overly Intrusive for a development overlooking a garden or principle room"- "yes" to both.

Delivering a Positive Environmental Legacy

SSEN propose destroying trees which are hundreds of years old. They think that they can buy us off, with schemes such as the Thurso Bumblebees.

What is positive about pouring thousands of tons of concrete into the ground, where it will stay forever?

SSEN are proposing destroying Scotland's landscape. The very thing which visitors come for. Has the financial loss to tourism been calculated?

Summing Up

There are alternatives to pylons such as undergrounding as happened in the 1970s with oil and gas.

In our own circumstances the OHL line option has been foisted upon us to meet someone else's timetable rather reduce impact on neighbours and ourselves.

SSEN have ignored local communities and are willing to decimate this part of Scotland for their own benefit and profit. I therefore recommend refusal.

Sheila M. Mather
W. Mather & Sons
6th May 2026

