

Electricity Act 1989
Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
DPEA Code of Practice

Tealing to Kintore OHL proposal TRL-120-1

CHS Statement: Consultation by ANGELA TAYLOR

My name is Angela Taylor. I live in Angus and have attended most of the SSEN consultation events from 2023 to 2025 at various locations within Angus.

My expectations that these events follow the Gunning Principles, the Aarhus convention for meaningful conversation and OFGEM and NESO's requirements for effective engagement with the public, were not met.

In the limited time I have available, I will mention my experiences of such consultation events.

In regard to Gunning Principle 1 that developments must still be at a formative stage and Ofgem's requirements that consultations are held throughout the optioneering process, the Proposed Development was presented initially in May 2023 at a combination of stages 1 (initial site selection) and 2 (detailed site selection), an accelerated process.

Concerning Gunning Principle 4 whereby conscientious consideration must be given to consultation responses, it was only at later events that any concerns from attendees were written down. In one instance, a booklet only allowed for feedback on sections D- F, Aberdeenshire, despite changes being made to the route within section B where no feedback was sought.

However, it is Gunning Principle 2 citing that there is sufficient information to give intelligent consideration, with information readily available, accessible and easily interpretable, which the applicant repeatedly failed to adhere to.

- A huge number of residents were not made aware of the initial consultation events in May 2023, with SSEN blaming an error with the delivery of letters.
- All events were scheduled for afternoons, despite repeated requests for evening and weekend events. SSEN were unable to deliver these timings, however managed to man stalls at agricultural events during the summer of 2025 at weekends.
- One of the events in May 2023 was in Westmuir, Kirriemuir. This location is **not** along the proposed route.
- A failing to hold an event in Forfar, a town along the route, led Angus councillors and Forfar community council to alert SSEN to this failing, as some residents within Forfar community council's area, were impacted by the proposed TKUP.
- Advertising of events was limited to a poster on a small "A frame" outside the venue on the day of the consultation. At Forfar this was restricted to the side door of the venue, as opposed to the main street. Likewise, at Edzell, a small sign was displayed away from the main street and passers-by. At some venues, a reminder was made by campaigning groups to display the board.
- Literature advertising the events was misleading; on one occasion, advertising the events at Tealing Hall, as being at Tealing (Tealing Hall is in Inveraldie), and another time misspelling the address as Inverdake.

The public information event held at Memus Hall, March 2024, was advertised as being held at Tannadice, a few miles away.

SSEN's map showing upcoming events publicised in May 2024, showed the locations of Newburgh in Fife as being located North of Tealing. The locations of Errol and Alyth were also incorrectly located and the scale on the map was misleading.

- There were basic errors in some of the information produced including outdated maps, (with many new homes not identified), mentioning a railway that does not exist, and missing links on literature. 3D visualisations were inaccurate, omitting to show homes, depicting summer months with deciduous trees, whilst also showing trees lost in earlier storms.
- When querying the benefits to local businesses, SSEN representatives referenced a local coffee shop, in Tealing, which was in reality closing down.
- However, the biggest failing was the lack of the applicant, aiming to take a development through agricultural land, having no staff present to address concerns of farmers. On other issues, staff were known to give conflicting information. This was apparent in Tealing when multiple projects were being discussed at the same time within the same venue.
- Much information was not available at time of consultation. Access road maps had been produced at the PAC, yet gave no details of how to reach the access roads as PRI and GIW had not been carried out. Detail was not available then, nor at the time of application, and still has not been finalised as a CTMP will only be available **post decision**. This is echoed in regard to biodiversity, as again only a draft CEMP is available even now, meaning information on these matters was simply missing.
- Frustrated attendees left the venues in disbelief on many occasions, in tears at the complete lack of information.

I conclude by mentioning the lack of satisfaction regarding SSEN's engagement being echoed in an independent survey carried out by Impact Research Ltd in 2025. This showed that levels of stakeholder satisfaction regarding engagement with SSEN had fallen from 2024 to 2025. Only 7% of stakeholders felt satisfied with engagement and recommendations were to "*make engagement a genuine two-way process' and 'be transparent about decisions, costs, and long-term plans'*."

Angela Taylor

11 May 2026