



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Joan McAlpine MSP**  
**South of Scotland Region**

Kersti Berge  
Head of Scotland  
Ofgem  
Cornerstone  
107 West Regent Street  
Glasgow  
G2 2BA

Our ref: JM/LB

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Dear Kersti

Thank you for your response to my enquiry regarding the proposed upgrade to the transmission line from Ayrshire to Carlisle. Many of my constituents will be surprised at your revelation that the project may be put out to tender, given the consultation exercise carried out by Scottish Power Energy Networks.

Tendering could drive down the cost of the upgrade, therefore resulting in an even worse development than the proposal many residents are currently opposed to. However, if Ofgem invite tenders for lines to be undergrounded and less obtrusive it could be a positive development for my constituents.

I note from your letter you say that you take the interests of consumers and "other factors" into account. Do these other factors include the effect on the landscape and amenity of those living on the route? By allocating £500 million to mitigate existing lines, Ofgem has conceded that pylons have a detrimental impact in scenic areas.

I am very grateful to you offering a meeting. I feel that any meeting would have to be a constructive discussion about how Ofgem's role in the process can help my constituents.

Yours sincerely

**Joan McAlpine MSP**

Room M3.10, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP  
Unit 7, Loreburne Centre, High Street, Dumfries DG1 2BD  
Tel: 0131 348 6885 01387 255334 Email: [Joan.McAlpine.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Joan.McAlpine.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)