

**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** Vaughan, Helen <Helen.Vaughan@detini.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 July 2013 13:47  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** RE: Connection to the electricity grid [Scanned]

Chris,

Further to my e-mail below I have now heard back from Michael Atkinson in NIE, with whom I understand you have already been in contact.

NIE has advised that they have been working with the Utility Regulator over a number of months to arrive at an understanding of how reinforcement costs beyond those at 11kV (which are directly chargeable to the customer) will be treated. While this remains unresolved it has been necessary, as you note in your email, for NIE to issue conditional offers in relation to connection charges.

I raised with NIE the concerns expressed by your members that they were being asked to 'sign up to' the terms offered in the conditional offer, despite not knowing how much it will cost (the fear that this might be like signing a blank cheque).

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NIE have noted these concerns and have considered how the wording in the conditional offer might be interpreted, in terms of any costs that might arise for the developer in the event that the current charging principles were changed. As a result, they have reviewed the existing documentation and expect to be in a position in the early part of next week to bring forward a form of wording which will give comfort to developers in receipt of conditional offers in this regard i.e. that in the event that the cost allocation rules are changed then the developer would have the option to withdraw from any binding commitment previously entered into with NIE.

I hope that this offers some reassurance to your members.

I have not yet received a response from NIAUR but, bearing in mind the deadline of 28 July noted in your e-mail, I didn't want to let the week go by without replying. If I do receive any additional information/clarification from NIAUR I will contact you again.

In the meantime, I hope this is helpful.

Helen

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**From:** Christopher Osborne [mailto:christopher@ufuhq.com]  
**Sent:** 17 July 2013 10:42  
**To:** Vaughan, Helen  
**Subject:** RE: Connection to the electricity grid [Scanned]

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Good morning Helen,

Thanks for getting back to me and I look forward to hearing from you when you receive your reply.

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**From:** Vaughan, Helen [mailto:Helen.Vaughan@detini.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 16 July 2013 15:06  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** Connection to the electricity grid [Scanned]

Chris,

I refer to your e-mail of 11 July to Joyce Rutherford regarding connection to the electricity grid. I'm afraid that Joyce is on leave at the moment, but I have picked up this e-mail in her absence and will do my best to help.

Connection charging is indeed a matter for NIE and NIAUR and I note that your members have been in contact with both organisations. The Department does not have a role in licensing – NIAUR is responsible for issuing and amending electricity licences. I have contacted both NIAUR and NIE to ask for more information on this matter and on the next steps in the process.

I will contact you again just as soon as I receive their reply. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me further.

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Helen Vaughan  
Tel - 02890529290

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