

# Your Views on Our plans: OHL Clearances & Tree Cutting

RIIO-ED2 Stakeholder Engagement



## What SP Energy Networks Do?

SP Energy Networks own and operate the electricity distribution network in the Central Belt & South of Scotland (SP Distribution) serving 2 million customers, and in Merseyside and North Wales (SP Manweb) serving 1.5 million customers. Our networks include over 40,000km of overhead power lines carrying electricity to our customers at various voltages. These lines traverse our licence areas, keeping vital electricity supplies safe, secure and reliable.

We are seeking your views on our investment plans for tree-cutting and ensuring we have sufficient clearance to overhead lines during our next regulated price control period (known as RIIO-ED2) running from 2023 to 2028.

## Our OHL Clearance Strategy

It is our legislative requirement under The Electricity Act, and [Part 5 of the ESQCR regulations](#) to ensure safety from our OHL assets and ensure safe minimum clearances are maintained from the ground and adjacent structures.

We work with relevant rural stakeholders including farmers & anglers, and attend country fairs to demonstrate the dangers of overhead power lines. We also provide additional signage in high risk and recreational areas to reduce the risk of incidents involving our overhead line network.

## Gathering Your Views on our Plans

We are keen to consult with our stakeholders and appropriate interest groups to gather feedback and gain support for our stated approaches.

## Our Tree Cutting Strategy

Our tree-cutting strategy is to follow industry best practice as set out in the guidelines given in ENATS 43/8 (Overhead line clearances) to maintain tree-cutting across all our overhead lines as part of a managed cycle.

As part of our Climate Change Adaption planning we now expect that in future we will experience an increase in vegetation growth rates, we are reviewing the impact this will have on our vegetation management policies.

Do you agree we have an important role to play with rural stakeholders to advise of the dangers of OHL and what activity would you expect us to take in support of this?

Do you believe we should go further than our legislative requirements to manage and maintain safety clearance distances from our equipment?

Do you agree with our forecast that vegetation growth rates will increase due to climate change? How do you believe we should consider this impact in our activities?

