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Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
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Kayte O'Neill
NESO
Faraday House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.

28 April 2026

ASSESSING LOW REGRETS ACTIONS IN THE STRATEGIC SPATIAL ENERGY PLAN

Dear Kayte,

Thank you for the continued close working between NESO and officials in the Welsh and Scottish governments, Ofgem and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. This has been fundamental in ensuring that the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) sets out clear, evidence-based pathways for meeting the challenges the energy system faces to 2050.

As this work has developed it has become clear that the methodology for producing the SSEP should be amended – specifically, the need for NESO to produce a 'low regrets pathway' as one of the options in the Pathway Options Report. Advice on low regrets actions will now be embedded within each pathway and presented consistently across the pathways in the Pathway Options Report. These could set out actions or investments that are common across pathways or create significant option value for the energy system. This will enable low regrets actions to be considered in context, reflecting robustness across a range of futures while improving clarity for decision-makers. Alongside this change of approach, officials from all organisations should continue to develop approaches for setting out both uncertainty and risks across SSEP pathways.

Following the proposal from NESO, the SSEP Committee agreed this change to the approach for assessing and presenting low regrets on 17 March 2026. The SSEP Committee recognised that as this change represents a departure from the approach set out in the SSEP Commission and the SSEP Methodology, it requires its own clear governance. The Committee confirmed that the appropriate governance has been followed in reaching this decision, including formal consideration and clearance by the SSEP Committee.

This letter serves as formal notification of the agreed change and confirmation that it has been taken in line with the required governance arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Johanna Cowan,
Strategy Director, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Edward Sherriff,
Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Ynni / Deputy Director Energy, Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government.

Catherine Williams,
Deputy Director, Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Scottish Government.

Eleanor Warburton,
Director - Energy Systems Design and Development, Ofgem.

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