

**THE NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC (LONDON POWER
TUNNELS 2) (CIRCUIT 1 – WIMBLEDON TO NEW CROSS) COMPULSORY
PURCHASE ORDER 2019**

THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 AND THE ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT 1981

**STATEMENT OF REASONS OF THE ACQUIRING AUTHORITY FOR THE MAKING OF A
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW RIGHTS FOR
CIRCUIT 1 OF LONDON POWER TUNNELS 2**



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THE NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC (LONDON POWER TUNNELS) (CIRCUIT 1 – WIMBLEDON TO NEW CROSS) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2019

STATEMENT OF REASONS OF THE ACQUIRING AUTHORITY FOR MAKING OF THE ORDER

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (company registration number 02366977) ("**NGET**") has made The National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (London Power Tunnels 2) (Circuit 1 – Wimbledon to New Cross) Compulsory Purchase Order 2019, (the "**Order**") under Section 10 of the Electricity Act 1989 and Schedule 3 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the "**1989 Act**") and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (the "**1981 Act**").
- 1.2 This Statement of Reasons is a non-statutory statement provided in compliance with Section 11 of the Guidance on Compulsory Purchase Process and the Crichel Down Rules (2018) (the "**Guidance**") and is not intended to constitute the Statement of Case that NGET will be required to prepare in accordance with the Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007, in the event of an inquiry into the Order.
- 1.3 NGET successfully undertook the London Power Tunnels 1 project ("**LPT1**") which was energised in early 2018 after a seven year construction programme. LPT1 comprised the construction of around 32 kilometres of high voltage electricity cable tunnel between Hackney and Willesden (via Kensal Green), Kensal Green and Wimbledon. LPT1 replaced existing aged assets, providing a more resilient transmission network in North London to meet current and future energy demands.
- 1.4 Following the successful implementation of LPT1, NGET turned its attention to the continuation of London Power Tunnels through and beneath South London. "London Power Tunnels 2" ("**LPT2**") is the collective term for three projects, each relating to a specific "Circuit". The Circuit 1 Project is described further in Section 2 of this Statement of Reasons.
- 1.5 As with LPT1, the objective of LPT2 is to replace aged and degrading oil-filled cables before they reach the end of their operational life and to ensure a stable electricity transmission system.
- 1.6 This Statement, and the justification for the Order, relates to the Circuit 1 Project only. For information, the Circuit 2 Project (New Cross to Hurst) and the Circuit 3 Project (Hurst to Crayford) will be the subject of separate compulsory purchase orders. Each Circuit is separate and independently operable from the others.
- 1.7 This Statement sets out NGET's justification for promoting the Order and explains why, in NGET's opinion, there is a compelling case in the public interest for compulsory purchase powers to be confirmed.
- 1.8 If confirmed by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Order will enable NGET to acquire compulsorily the new rights included in the Order for the tunnel (the "**Order Rights**") in order to facilitate the delivery of the Circuit 1 Project. In addition, while most of the above ground sites are now owned

by NGET, there is a need to take some above ground rights/interests under the Order.

- 1.9 NGET's approach to the Order is to seek Order Rights only for those parts of the tunnel that is in land that is not beneath the public highway. NGET will rely on its statutory street works powers under the Electricity Act 1989, Schedule 4, and the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 for those parts beneath the highway. This has the advantage of reducing the number of interests that are included in the Order, and is a sign of the urgent need for the Circuit 1 Project.
- 1.10 This Statement is made having regard to the Guidance generally, and in particular Section 11.
- 1.11 On 1 April 2019 the Electricity System Operator became a legally separate company within the National Grid Group. NGET remains the transmission owner and operator and remains responsible for the delivery of the Circuit 1 Project.

2 THE SCHEME

2.1 Description of the Scheme

- 2.1.1 NGET is proposing to build underground tunnels over approximately 12km to carry 400kV cables between the Wimbledon Substation (where LPT1 terminated – see above) to a substation at New Cross. These start and finish points are fixed as direct replacement points for the existing circuit cables. Planned construction for the Circuit 1 Project will commence from January 2020. The Circuit 1 Project is expected to be commissioned in 2025.
- 2.1.2 The tunnels are constructed from a series of vertical deep shafts that will send and receive (as appropriate) the tunnel boring machines ("**TBMs**") which will tunnel the cable route at depth, connecting these shaft access points. This means that during the construction phase of the Circuit 1 Project, the above ground activity which is perceptible to the general public will be in and around these shaft sites and once operational, the activity will diminish significantly. During construction and then in operation, the deep shafts provide access to the tunnels and allow for ventilation.

Above Ground Works/Sites

- 2.1.3 There will be above ground sites operating as drive sites and/or reception sites for the TBM's during construction phase and as headhouse/ventilation/access sites during operation. Travelling west to east these are:
- (a) **Wimbledon** – using an existing NGET controlled facility. The construction access passes over land owned by NGET, over which third parties hold rights. A short section of private road is owned by NGET but leased to UK Power Networks ("**UKPN**"). The Wimbledon site will receive the TBM that has been driven from King's Avenue.
 - (b) **King's Avenue** – using a former builder's yard that has been purchased by NGET. This site will receive the TBM that has been driven from New Cross and will also drive a TBM to Wimbledon. Following the construction phase, there will be a headhouse at King's Avenue.
 - (c) **New Cross** – NGET owns the site and there is an existing substation adjacent to the site. A lease has been secured from Southern Gas Networks during the construction period. All permanent works are to be constructed on operational land owned by NGET. For the purposes of the

Circuit 1 Project there will be one headhouse at New Cross. This site will also share construction related activity as being the commencement point for the Circuit 2 Project, which will be the subject of a separate compulsory purchase order. The entirety of the New Cross site will be contained in both Projects because each Circuit is separate and independently operable.

Underground/Tunnelling Works

- 2.1.4 The route of the tunnel has been selected as the best available, taking into account engineering, economic and environmental considerations. The route of the tunnel has therefore been selected, as far as possible, to lie beneath the public highway. NGET will use its statutory street works powers (contained in Schedule 4 of the 1989 Act and in the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991) to carry out the necessary tunnelling works (and thereafter to operate and maintain) in land which lies under the public highway. This is consistent with the approach that was taken in relation to LPT1.
- 2.1.5 The Order therefore excludes those areas of the tunnel beneath or within the highway. This is consistent with the way NGET used its street works powers in relation to LPT1 and allows NGET to take a proportionate approach to its consultation in association with those affected by the Order.
- 2.1.6 In respect of the land comprised in the Order along the tunnel alignment, no surface access is required in order to construct, use and maintain the tunnel. Access to the land comprised in the Order will be via adjacent sections of the tunnel.
- 2.1.7 The depths of the tunnels (measured to the crown of the tunnel) range between 20 metres and 50 metres and most of the tunnel will be located at a depth of approximately 30 metres. The Order will seek an ability for the tunnel to deviate vertically, but will set a "not less than" depth for the rights.
- 2.1.8 The Order will contain the rights for the construction, maintenance etc of the tunnel together with a zone surrounding the tunnel which will safeguard that area from third party interference to protect the structural integrity of the tunnel. The protection zone will be 6 metres above and below the tunnel and 3 metres either side of the tunnel. Therefore, the rights corridor will be at a depth of at least 14 metres below the ground. In some locations, on a case by case basis, the overall rights corridor will reduce from 10.5 metres (i.e. 3m either side of a 4.5 metre external diameter tunnel). In these cases excluding a very small extent of a new interest from the Order is judged appropriate on balance without affecting the deliverability or integrity of the tunnel.

2.2 **Need**

- 2.2.1 It is NGET's statutory duty to ensure that there is sufficient electricity transmission infrastructure available to support future energy demand in London. NGET owns and maintain the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales. The network carries electricity from the generators to substations where the voltage is lowered ready for distribution.
- 2.2.2 The current Wimbledon to New Cross cables were commissioned in 1967 and the anticipated asset life for these cables was determined to be 45 years. These cables are largely laid in the street at shallow depth, together with apparatus from numerous and various other undertakers. These cables are 275kV BICC oil filled paper insulated with a lead sheath design. They are approaching the end of their asset life and are beginning to corrode.

- 2.2.3 The Circuit 1 Project is a “non-load” related project because the investment required is triggered by asset condition rather than load related demand at this time.
- 2.2.4 The replacement of these cables is urgent and necessary. As stated above, the cables are now beyond their originally anticipated design-life. This places into acute doubt their ability to be used for the efficient transmission of electricity. Over time, the existing cables will become progressively less efficient until they pass beyond their repairable life. At that point, there will be a risk of system failure that will lead to power failures. In addition, the risk of environmental harm caused by oil leakage from corroded cables increases.
- 2.2.5 National Grid’s most recent asset health score for the current Wimbledon to New Cross cables within Circuit 1 concludes that the current cables are in the highest category (category 1) in terms of asset health and are the worst in the network. Under the current “Monetised Risk” approach, NGET also considers the cost of repair and maintenance of the existing asset against the replacement of that asset. Under this basis of assessment the existing cables are still an urgent priority for replacement. In both cases, NGET is prioritising their replacement.
- 2.2.6 In accordance with Schedule 9 of the 1989 Act, NGET, in formulating the proposals for the installation below ground of an electric line, or the execution of any other works for or in connection with the transmission of electricity, must have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest.

3 **ENABLING POWER**

- 3.1 By section 9(2) of the 1989 Act, the holder of a licence authorising him to participate in the transmission of electricity is charged with the duty “*to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission*”.
- 3.2 NGET is a holder of an electricity transmission licence granted or treated as granted under section 6(1)(b) of the 1989 Act. NGET owns the high voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales and operates the transmission system across Great Britain.
- 3.3 Section 10 and Schedule 3 of the 1989 Act empower NGET “*to purchase compulsorily any land [including rights in land] required for any purpose connected with the carrying on of the activities which [NGET] is authorised by [its] licence to carry on.*”
- 3.4 Schedule 4 of the 1989 Act and the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 enable NGET to use street works powers for those parts of the Circuit 1 Project in and beneath the “street”, hence not all of the tunnel route is the subject of this Order.

4 **LAND AND RIGHTS REQUIRED**

4.1 **Permanent Land Acquisition**

There is no land acquisition required pursuant to the Order in relation to the above ground sites for the Circuit 1 Project.

4.2 Acquisition of New Rights

4.2.1 The new rights to be purchased compulsorily over the land under this Order are described in Table 1 of the Order Schedule in accordance with the definitions set out in paragraph 4.2.3 below. The land over which the new rights are to be purchased compulsorily is shown coloured blue on the Order Map.

4.2.2 The land shown edged red and with no colour wash and to which no plot number has been assigned is comprised within the Circuit 1 Project but does not form part of this Order.

4.2.3 The Rights to be acquired are defined in the table below:

<p>"Construction Access Rights"</p>	<p>All rights necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the land and adjoining Order land for the purposes of constructing and installing the electricity cables and tunnel infrastructure, carrying out de-watering and drainage works and installing, altering or reinstating land drainage systems and commissioning the electricity cables with or without vehicles, plant, machinery, apparatus, equipment, materials and personnel; and • carry out works to facilitate such access including to construct, lay down, use and remove access roads including any necessary temporary bridging, culverting or diversion of watercourses and drains, erecting fencing/gates, carrying out security operations, carrying out earth works, modifying road verges and junctions and installing, using, altering, diverting, and removing services and utilities.
<p>"Operational Access Rights"</p>	<p>All rights necessary to access the land and adjoining Order land for the purposes of operating, inspecting, maintaining, repairing and altering the electricity cables and tunnel infrastructure with or without vehicles, plant, machinery, apparatus, equipment, materials and personnel.</p>
<p>"Tunnel and Cable Rights"</p>	<p>All rights necessary for the purposes of or incidental to the construction of the hereinafter mentioned Cable Tunnel and operation of the electricity infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the right to construct and install a concrete cable tunnel with an overall external diameter not exceeding 4.5 metres at a depth of not less than 20 metres below the surface of the land at the date of the Order together with any necessary or auxiliary apparatus (in the Order referred to as the "Cable Tunnel"); • the right to retain and make use of and from

	<p>time to time inspect, cleanse, maintain, repair, alter and decommission and make safe the Cable Tunnel;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the right to place, attach and install electricity cables for the transmission and distribution of electricity together with all necessary ancillary cables, pipes, equipment, apparatus and fibre optic cables required in connection with the use and operation of the aforementioned electricity cables; • to test and commission the electricity infrastructure installed within the Cable Tunnel and to remedy initial faults and defects in it at any time prior to the date on which it is energised and ready for commercial operation; • to retain, commission, operate, inspect, maintain, repair, alter, renew, replace and remove or decommission the electricity infrastructure; • the right to enter the hereinafter mentioned Protective Strip and the Cable Tunnel from any adjoining cable tunnels and adits as often as may be required with or without vehicles and at all times with all necessary materials apparatus plant and equipment for the purposes set above and/or for the purpose of access to and egress from other parts of the NGET's Cable Tunnel and adits; • the right to all necessary rights of support for the Cable Tunnel; and • The right to all necessary rights of protection for the Cable Tunnel from any excavation, mining foundation or piling works within such part of the subsoil and under the surface of the land as comprises a strip (in the Order referred to as the "Protective Strip") thereof the upper limit of which shall not be greater than 6 metres from the top of the Cable Tunnel at the date of the Order and the lower limit of which shall not be greater than 6 metres below the bottom of the Cable Tunnel and the lateral limits shall not be greater than 3 metres on each side of the Cable Tunnel.
<p>"Construction Compound Rights"</p>	<p>All rights necessary for the purposes of or incidental to the construction, installation and commissioning of the electricity cables and tunnel infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to erect, create, use and remove a works compound which may include portable cabins and offices, and welfare facilities including

	<p>portable toilets and electricity generators;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to store, stockpile and where necessary use, manage and process plant, machinery, apparatus, materials (including excavated material) and/or equipment; • to access the land with or without vehicles, plant, machinery, apparatus, equipment, materials and personnel; • to fence, erect hoardings or signage or otherwise secure the compound; • to carry out de-watering and drainage works and install, alter or reinstate land drainage systems; • to discharge water into existing drains and watercourses; • to install, use and remove artificial lighting; • to install, use, alter, divert and remove services and utilities; and • to reinstate the land.
<p>“Lyndon Yard Crane Rights”</p>	<p>The right for NGET to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bring onto the land, position and swing the jib of a crane loaded or unloaded through the airspace above the land for the purposes of removing machinery and equipment from the construction site; • to access the land with or without vehicles, plant, machinery, apparatus, equipment and personnel; and • to fence, erect hoardings or signage or otherwise secure the compound.

4.2.4 The rights to be acquired under the Circuit 1 Project are:

- (a) Tunnel Rights in the subsoil at a depth of no less than 14 metres along the route of the tunnel as described in the Schedule to the Order and shown on the Order plans;
- (b) Construction Access Rights over land comprising part of Copper Mill Lane, Merton and the Wimbledon NGET substation access road, north of Copper Mill Road, Merton;
- (c) Lyndon Yard Crane Rights at Lyndon Yard, south of Rivermill Road, Wandsworth;

- (d) Construction Access Rights over land comprising private road (north east of Old Kent Road, A2, Southwark); and
- (e) Construction Compound Rights over land comprising gas holder and hardstanding (east of Sandgate Street, Southwark).

4.2.5 The above new rights are for the benefit of the undertaking of NGET for the transmission of electricity including without limitation such land and hereditaments forming part of that undertaking as are accommodated by the rights set out in the Order and this notice.

5 **ACQUISITION STRATEGY AND PROGRESS TO DATE**

5.1 **NGET's Acquisition Strategy**

5.1.1 NGET seeks to acquire land and all rights by voluntary agreement. A rigorous process has been undertaken firstly to identify and thereafter to engage with landowners and occupiers to acquire the necessary interests by agreement.

5.1.2 Negotiations with landowners and occupiers to secure voluntary easements, wayleaves or licences for the tunnels within Circuit 1 have been ongoing since July 2018. Land required for the permanent head house at Kings Avenue has been acquired by NGET through voluntary negotiation. NGET makes particular efforts to avoid the use of compulsory purchase powers by negotiating by private treaty.

5.1.3 Initially, heads of terms ("HoTs") are entered into, agreeing the principal terms which are translated into legal agreements.

5.1.4 Given that this is a linear, deep tunnel scheme passing through and beneath London it will inevitably cross existing assets held by statutory undertakers, including transport/highway authorities, in respect of which asset protection and crossing agreements will be required.

5.1.5 Whilst particular effort is being made to secure the necessary rights voluntarily, in order to ensure the timely delivery of this critical linear infrastructure project, it is now necessary to use compulsory purchase powers. Voluntary negotiations for the remainder of the necessary rights will continue in parallel to the CPO process.

5.1.6 In the Circuit 1 Project there are parcels of land that, through operation of the bona vacantia doctrine, is owned by the Crown and, therefore, cannot be compulsorily acquired. Discussions continue with the Treasury Solicitor and NGET is confident that this will not impede the scheme.

5.2 **Progress**

5.2.1 As at 10 May 2019, we have secured 8 of the required 83 easements for the tunnels (10%). There are a further 44 where HoTs have been agreed, leaving 31 yet to be agreed.

6 **PLANNING POSITION**

6.1 **Permitted Development Rights**

6.1.1 The majority of the Circuit 1 Project is to be consented pursuant to permitted development rights under Part 15 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. This comprises: the tunnel and

related activities, the drive shaft, reception shaft, headhouses (those sited on operational land) and upgrades to existing substations on operational land.

- 6.1.2 For those elements of the Circuit 1 Project that are consented pursuant to permitted development rights, it is necessary for the relevant local planning authorities to confirm through the environmental impact assessment (“**EIA**”) screening process that the development is not “EIA development”. The Circuit 1 Project passes through and is within the London Boroughs of Merton, Wandsworth, Lambeth and Southwark. All four local planning authorities have screened the Circuit 1 Project as not being EIA development. Therefore, permitted development rights are available.
- 6.1.3 Where NGET proposes the erection of headhouses on operational land under permitted development rights, an application for prior approval will be made to the relevant local planning authority for approval of details of the design and external appearance of the headhouse. In respect of the Circuit 1 Project, this application will be made to the London Borough of Southwark for the proposed headhouses on operational land at NGET’s New Cross site. The process of obtaining approval from the local planning authority is currently being pursued and it is expected that the application will be submitted in May 2019.
- 6.1.4 All activities beneath ground associated with the tunnel, including its ultimate fit-out and cable installation are also carried out pursuant to permitted development rights under Part 15.

6.2 **Express Planning Permission**

- 6.2.1 In relation to the provision of headhouses on non-operational land (i.e. at the King’s Avenue site), planning permission is required from the London Borough of Lambeth. Full planning permission was secured in February 2019.

7 **SPECIAL CATEGORY LAND**

- 7.1 Sections of the Circuit 1 Project will pass beneath “open space” and “common land” as the terms are defined in the 1981 Act. For example, tunnelling is proposed underneath Wandsworth Common and Clapham Common.
- 7.2 The Order does not propose or seek the authorisation of the purchase of any land forming part of a common, open space or fuel or field garden allotment for the purposes of the 1981 Act.
- 7.3 There are interests held by local authorities and statutory undertakers in the Circuit 1 Project. NGET’s negotiation with these parties continues.

8 **FUNDING AND DELIVERY**

8.1 **Timetable for delivery**

NGET is proposing to award the contract for tunnelling works in October 2019 with contractors going on site and commencing construction in January 2020. Site set-up and construction of the Circuit 1 Project will be between 2020 and 2025.

8.2 **Funding**

- 8.2.1 The Circuit 1 Project forms part of the Non-load related Underground Cables and Tunnels portfolio. LPT2 is an efficient and well justified asset intervention in critical

electricity transmission infrastructure. Funding is provided through the regulatory price control mechanism for investments of this nature.

9 **ALTERNATIVES TO THE ORDER**

9.1 **No Action**

9.1.1 This is not an alternative option given the urgent and compelling need to replace the cables as described elsewhere in this Statement of Reasons.

9.2 **Options appraisal**

Cut and Cover

9.2.1 In London, electricity has traditionally been transmitted through cables located just beneath the road surface, within the "street". For the Circuit 1 Project, using a "cut and cover" technique to run cables in the street would cause very significant traffic disruption across South London. This is aside from other effects from construction, including the noise associated with the process. This technique would be to simply dig a trench (in sections), lay the cable and back-fill the trench.

9.2.2 Maintenance and replacement of the assets would also be difficult, time consuming and costly because roads would need to be cut up again when maintenance or renewal is required.

9.2.3 In addition, there are technical constraints in using this process because of the inability to use forced-air ventilation to cool the cables and so there is a limit on cable ratings (i.e. the kV level that can be achieved).

9.2.4 The Cut and Cover technique also increases the risks of impacts and damage to apparatus of other Statutory Undertakers as the roads in South London are densely populated with varying apparatus.

9.2.5 This technique takes materially longer than other options because of the time required to cut up small sections of road and then move along the road.

Overhead Lines

9.2.6 The density of London's built environment means that an overhead line corridor does not exist and therefore this option is not feasible.

9.2.7 An overhead line option would be far more costly due to the impacts of sterilising land in London. This would also not be a viable option from a programming perspective as it would take a long time to construct and energise the system.

Tunnelling

9.2.8 The clear and compelling advantages of tunnelling over cut and cover are:

- (a) a more direct route can be followed below the ground with the need for fewer joints, making for a more efficient design;
- (b) the impact on local traffic is much less in both the construction phase and any subsequent maintenance and renewal;
- (c) protection, maintenance and renewal of the assets is easier in a tunnel;

- (d) the construction of the tunnel does not carry as much risk of damaging the apparatus of other statutory undertakers as a cut and cover method;
- (e) noise and vibration arising from the tunnelling operation is imperceptible at the proposed depth; and
- (f) a higher cable rating can be achieved because of the ventilation techniques deployed for a tunnel solution.

9.2.9 The clear and compelling advantages of tunnelling over overhead lines are:

- (a) tunnelling avoids a visual impact that some may perceive as being harmful;
- (b) the limitations of routeing overhead lines in a dense urban environment where there are likely to be many taller buildings;
- (c) the impact on local traffic is much less in both the construction phase and any subsequent maintenance and renewal; and
- (d) protection, maintenance and renewal of the assets is easier in a tunnel.

10 HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY ACT 2010 CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 Human Rights Implications

10.1.1 The Convention rights potentially applicable to the making of the Order are Articles 6, 8 and Article 1 of the First Protocol as contained in the Schedule to the Human Rights Act 1998. The position is summarised in paragraph 12 of Stage 2 of the Guidance.

10.1.2 Relevant parts of Article 1 of the First Protocol of the Convention provide:

"Every natural or legal person is entitled to peaceful enjoyment of his possessions" and "no one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law".

10.1.3 Relevant parts of Article 8 of the Convention provide:

"1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of ... the economic well-being of the country ..."

10.1.4 The Order has been made pursuant to Section 10 and Schedule 3 of the 1989 Act which authorises NGET to acquire new rights compulsorily subject to following the procedures laid down in the 1981 Act.

10.1.5 NGET considers that there is a compelling case in the public interest that the new rights referred to in the Order be acquired in order to achieve the purposes described in this Statement of Reasons. If the Secretary of State agrees with NGET that there is a compelling case in the public interest, he may confirm the Order. If the Order is confirmed, compensation may be claimed by persons whose interests in land have been acquired or whose possession of land has been disturbed proportionate to any losses that they incur as a result of the acquisition. In the

circumstances, if the Order is confirmed, it is considered that the compulsory acquisition of the new rights referred to in the Order will not conflict with Article 1 of the First Protocol or Article 8 of the Convention as any interference with the rights will be in accordance with the law, justified and proportionate.

10.1.6 Relevant parts of Article 6 provide that:

"1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations ... everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law."

10.1.7 So far as the Order is concerned, any owner, lessee or occupier of land included in the Order will be notified and may have the opportunity to make representations to the Secretary of State and to be heard at a public inquiry before a decision is made as to whether or not the Order should be confirmed, and would in any event have legal rights under the 1981 Act to challenge any order made on the relevant statutory grounds.

10.1.8 NGET is satisfied that there are no planning or financial impediments to the implementation of Circuit 1 of the LPT2 project and that Circuit 1 of the LPT2 project is therefore likely to proceed if the Order is confirmed.

10.1.9 For the reasons set out above, there is considered to be a compelling case in the public interest to proceed with the Order to facilitate the replacement of the existing ageing oil filled cables and the upgrade of the cables.

10.2 **Equality Act 2010**

10.2.1 As a non-public body exercising public functions, NGET has a statutory duty under section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it; and
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

10.2.2 The relevant protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

10.2.3 NGET's use of the tunnelling method (as mentioned above) for the Circuit 1 Project will keep the disruption to those living along the route to a minimum; this will not cause differential impacts to those individuals or groups of individuals who share a relevant protected characteristic.

10.2.4 As mentioned in Paragraph 5 above, NGET has undertaken extensive negotiation with landowners impacted by the Circuit 1 Project and has made particular efforts to avoid the need to use compulsory purchase powers, by negotiating by private treaty and by using its powers under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. Furthermore, NGET is using existing sites in its ownership, or above ground sites that have been acquired voluntarily, such that this has minimised any disadvantages to those who share a relevant protected characteristic.

- 10.2.5 NGET has carried out extensive community consultation. Nothing arose from that consultation that caused NGET to become concerned that the Circuit 1 Project would have a disproportionate effect on any individuals or groups of individuals with protected characteristics.
- 10.2.6 In light of the above, NGET considers that it has given due regard to the public sector equality duty set out in s149 of the Equality Act 2010 in promoting this Order for the Circuit 1 Project.

Dated: 13 June 2019

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS:

In the event of a public inquiry being held in respect of the Order, NGET would intend to refer to or put in evidence the following documents:

- 1 Board minutes of NGET's Board of Directors authorising the making of the Order.
- 2 The Compulsory Purchase Order dated 13 June 2019.
- 3 Map showing the route of the proposed tunnel.
- 4 Such other documents as NGET considers necessary to respond to any objections.