

X April

Draft

Dear Secretary of State,

We the undersigned East Suffolk Town and Parish Councils write to formally complain about what we perceive to be your prejudicial and inconsistent comments on Sizewell C and with regard to issues of community consent.

You have repeatedly refused to meet us or accept our and others' invitations to Suffolk, but yet you came to visit EDF at the Sizewell C site in January, when you announced a £100m cash injection for the project. BEIS officials have shared with us the government's propriety guidance which states "*Ministers will...avoid expressing views on the merits of a proposed scheme which is the subject of an application, in a way that might be, or might be perceived to be, prejudicial to the eventual determination of such an application.*" [1] In media interviews during your January visit you said it was a "fantastic economic opportunity" [2] and on the "Today" programme on 7 April [3] you went further, saying "*we are committed to Sizewell C*". With the media reporting that you are considering a 20% equity stake, we consider that you have shown prejudice and predetermination and have totally lost faith in your ability to make an impartial decision about EDF's planning application.

Meanwhile your Energy Strategy rolled back its target for onshore wind to a "*limited number of supportive [host] communities*". Again on "Today" you said "*unlike other countries we can't simply impose infrastructure on people if they don't want it*". This is a totally inconsistent approach to energy infrastructure and the issue is particularly pertinent here in East Suffolk - where up to 9 energy NSIPs are proposed - given your recent decision to consent SPR EA1N and EA2 despite overwhelming evidence of community opposition contained within the DCO to the onshore elements of both applications.

Finally, when the BBC's Nick Robinson said there was "huge opposition" to Sizewell C, you tried to deflect it saying "*there is some opposition*". May we remind you that representatives from 42 of our Councils met your official Declan Burke in February to express our widespread and grave concerns about this damaging project.

Given your comments and the level of feeling in the communities we represent, we request that you personally meet with us as a matter of urgency.

Yours etc

Notes

1. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48259/3908-propriety-guidance-develop-consents.pdf
2. <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/kwasi-kwarteng-on-sizewell-c-plans-in-suffolk-8651176>
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00162xv> (we have recordings of the relevant sections in case this link expired)