



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Edward Miliband MP  
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Reference No. HW60844

18 December 2024

Dear Ed

In my Westminster Hall debate on Tuesday 10th December, I raised concerns over the impact of Cleve Hill Solar Park on communities in my constituency.

While I appreciated the response from the Minister for Climate, she was unable to answer questions on Cleve Hill Solar Park specifically due to the development being a Nationally Important Infrastructure Project.

I would be grateful if you could answer the following:

- What agency is responsible for ensuring the safety of the Cleve Hill Solar Park development?
- Who will be inspecting it before it is switched on?
- Will the Government be adding battery storage systems to the environmental permitting regulations? If so, when will the consultation take place?
- If not, what approach to ensuring the safety of grid-scale batteries do the Government intend to take?

This issue is important not just for my residents in Graveney, but for the whole country. Large-scale batteries look likely to be an important part of our future energy infrastructure, so we must have sufficient safety regulations in place.

With best wishes

Helen Whately MP  
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent