



SSEN Proposals for the East Coast 400Kv OHL and associated facilities.

Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC) strongly objects to both proposals presented by SSEN, which would see the East Coast 400kV OHL come through our communities (Routes E4/F3 and E1/F1.3).

CDDCC attended each of the consultation events hosted by SSEN and followed up with a questionnaire which local residents have completed. The opinion of our community is blatantly clear. They (still) say No To Pylons. Wherever they are located.

Objection to Report on Consultation.

It is disappointing to note that there is a lack of acknowledgement of the strength of objection by our communities, in the most recent Report on Consultation produced by SSEN. The large numbers of letters conveying objection to the project are not recognised and the results of the previous questionnaire CDDCC shared with SSEN are not included either. Those results shared with SSEN illustrated that out of 275 respondents, 96% objected to the proposal. Not sharing those details suggests that SSEN manipulated its findings rather than being honest about the opposition it faced earlier this year.

In order to continue to fairly represent the views of our community, CDDCC launched another questionnaire in conjunction with SSEN's most recent consultation period (ending, 21 November 2024). With an increase in respondents of 23.6%, the results demonstrate that there is increased engagement in the proposals, and rather than being able to mitigate the community's concerns, the level of objection has risen from 96% to 98.5%.

The Need.

Despite reading marketing material produced by SSEN and attending the consultation events, residents still don't see the need for the Kintore to Tealing line to exist as an overhead line, with 80% of respondents to the CDDCC questionnaire supporting a review of the entire project in line with current costs and technology.

Furthermore, the Kintore-Tealing 400kV line is not mentioned in the National Energy System Operator (National Grid) Holistic Network Design, nor is it in the subsequent Refresh Document. The NESO does not see the need for this line. It is being driven purely by SSEN although their response, when asked, is that they have been instructed by National Grid to put it in. This simply is not true.

Rather, the community's perspective of the line is that it is for export purposes and worry that they are the ones who would bear the brunt of the negative impacts on mental and physical health, destruction of farmland and recreational areas, threats to wildlife, biodiversity and environment, decreased values in house prices and local businesses.

So far, no formal compensation options have been presented to residents who would have to carry the burden of such infrastructure, and the community has seen no proof that this line will result, directly, in a reduction in electricity bills as suggested by SSEN and politicians.



Taking all of this into account, it is the opinion of our community and many others across the country, that offshoring the Kintore to Tealing line is the only option to protect; landscape visual impacts, physical and mental health, farming, wildlife and recreation.

Alternatives.

Once again, SSEN failed to provide details on the alternative methods of transmission despite calls from the community. Whilst SSEN have produced some corporate literature to describe the reasons why overhead lines is the only option our community is not satisfied; they want to see the alternatives presented with actual cost comparisons. The CDDCC questionnaire results tell us that 95.5% of respondents don't accept the explanation from SSEN that the only viable option is for overhead lines, with 80.3% in support of a total review of the project in line with current costs and technology.

The questionnaire asked respondents if they would support the line being put offshore and 87.6% said they would, 9.8% said they would need more detail and 2.6% said they would not support it going offshore. Similarly, we asked respondents if they would support the line being put underground. The support for this dropped to 68.8%, 21.2% said they would need more detail and 10% said they would not support it. In general, those not supportive of these alternatives believe there is no need for this line. This data should be invaluable to SSEN, as it highlights that our community is supportive of moving forward but only if we do so in a meaningful manner.

CDDCC is aware of a review undertaken by the ESO, which was pushed for by a group of MPs known as OFFSET, looking at the East Anglian project, because the residents in the areas affected by the proposed plans for onshore infrastructure have the same concerns as our communities. That review revealed that the cost of offshoring aspects of that project were cost neutral compared with going overground over the lifetime of the project. The public no longer trusts SSEN's figures when comparing the options to put the line overhead or offshore. It is time for SSEN to be open and transparent about the costs and the reasons for choosing to go with the overhead line option.

When SSEN choose to share the comparative costs, it will be interesting to read how the socio-economic impacts of the options have been factored into the overall costs of the project. In a study undertaken in Norway, to assess the aesthetic impacts on the landscape, it was concluded that

*'Overhead power transmission lines cause external costs including aesthetic impacts on the landscape. We use the contingent valuation method to estimate the external costs from these aesthetic impacts and find that the social benefits of avoiding these negative impacts on the landscape exceed the costs of burying the lines as underground cables. **Our best-estimate of the aesthetic benefits from burying the power lines was three times as large as the cost.** These conclusions were based only on an assessment of the aesthetic impacts. Impacts of overhead power lines on wildlife and human health would likely make burial of power lines even more attractive. These results were obtained in an urban setting. Additional studies are needed to assess costs associated with aesthetic impacts in rural and pristine natural areas, where power line construction is increasing.'*

Valuing the social benefits of avoiding landscape degradation from overhead power transmission lines: Do underground cables pass the benefit-cost test?

Ståle Navrud, Richard C. Ready, Kristin Magnussen & Olvar Bergland



Environmental.

Nothing that SSEN has written or said has allayed the concerns that the community has for the environment, wildlife and biodiversity. 99.4% of respondents to our questionnaire told us that that are concerned about the impact that the overhead lines could have on the environment, biodiversity and landscape.

As we outlined in the last feedback to the consultation, Aberdeenshire Council has designated the Dee Valley, from Peterculter in the east to Dinnet in the west, as a Special Landscape Area. This includes the River Dee and associated landscapes, taking in adjoining hills, riverside towns and villages. It provides people within the area with enviable green spaces, linking the developed areas of Aberdeen to the recreational facilities in Aberdeenshire and the Cairngorms National Park. This area must not be destroyed by industrial construction, such as gigantic overhead lines and enormous substations.

The proposed routes will result in an enormous amount of forestry being lost within our community particularly within the Durris Area. Destroying these habitats by ploughing through them, covering them with concrete and disrupting their integrity is not a sustainable solution to climate change.

Health.

The community has the sense that SSEN has dismissed their concerns and are trivializing the risks to health due to EMF exposure. The leaflet produced is wholly inadequate and does not provide any reassurance. Why did the graph not display the EMF exposure of a pylon carrying 400kV, 6GW? Are the connectors carrying 275kV in the image? What is the Wattage?

It is widely understood by the community that the current guidelines mentioned in SSEN's EMF leaflet are out of date (as described by 255 scientists from 11 different countries). Nothing in SSEN's EMF leaflet shows the community that the 6GW line, a size unprecedented in this country, is safe. And now that concerns have been flagged and the community is aware that the current guidelines do not address transmission power of the size and power of the Kintore-Tealing line, the onus must be on SSEN to provide evidence to the public to prove that this proposal is safe and will not cause any detrimental health impacts to members of the public. This evidence should be clear and easy for anyone to understand and should also be demonstrated against the proposed routes with associated distances highlighted.

Devastatingly, the questionnaire results highlight that 80.9% of respondents attribute poorer health and wellbeing right now to SSEN's proposals. That's 275 respondents telling us that they are experiencing a 'detrimental impact on their health and wellbeing.'

It is heart breaking to read the comments that have been written by those respondents who describe, very honestly, how the proposals are making them feel stressed, anxious and worried. There is mention of depression, grief, and anger and some have gone as far as to say that they have concerns that the EMF exposure will kill them or their children. The impacts on mental health are felt acutely here.

Another concern that frequently comes up is that residents feel trapped because they worry they won't be able to sell their property if they chose to move. It is known that not only are less



people attracted to living in close proximity to pylons, but house valuation is impacted by being in close proximity to pylons.

In Oftec's 'The Overview of Valuation of Visual Impacts of Transmission Price Control Review (TPCR)' written for Ofgem:

'The hedonic study revealed that there was a negative and significant reduction of about 12% (in the range of about 6 to 17%) for houses which were within 100 metres of a HVTL. For houses within 100 metres of a pylon the drop in property price was steeper at just under 21%.'

https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/docs/2006/08/14986-visual-impact_oftec_010606.pdf

Furthermore, a research paper published September 2023 tells us that,

'The effects [of house price devaluation] are larger and more widespread than has been found in previous research. Houses within 300 metres of new pylons sell for 10 per cent less, on average, than those more than 1.5km away after pylon construction. Their influence decays with distance but can be detected up to about 1.2km. On average, houses sell for around 3.6 per cent less within 1.2km than beyond that distance after pylons are installed – see Figure 1. The implied cost is about £6000 per household in 2015 prices, around the end of our study period.' (about £8054 in 2024 prices)

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/businessreview/2023/09/25/what-can-house-prices-tell-us-about-the-environmental-costs-of-overhead-power-lines/>

Notwithstanding this evidence, SSEN representatives are still heard saying to residents that house valuations are not impacted by being positioned close to pylons. Denying this is hurtful and disrespectful to those who would be affected by the overhead line.

People objecting to these types of infrastructure projects are often referred to as NIMBYs. Often the term NIMBY describes residents with substantial privilege who are seeking to preserve privilege. Is good physical and mental health a privilege now? For the people of this area, the opposition is not just about the fact that the pylons will spoil their view. They worry that it could kill them or their children and they have seen no conclusive and trustworthy evidence to quell those fears.

We encourage SSEN to read the responses, review them and understand the impact that this project is having on our community. It is incumbent upon SSEN to react sensitively to these concerns.

Consultation.

It was frustrating but not a surprise for CDDCC to learn that 82.6% respondents said that they did not feel like SSEN had listened to their feedback at all. 15.9% of respondents told us that they felt listened to 'a little', 1.5% said 'adequately' and 0% said 'effectively'. This is a staggering statistic given that this is SSEN's third consultation event in this community. It is suggested that SSEN take time to reflect on how unsuccessful their interactions and consultation has been throughout this process.



We have had several members of the community complain to us about the lack of consultation on the newly proposed routes E4 and F3. We have encountered this approach previously when the F1.3 route was initially presented, which was then retracted and a fresh consultation started. This time however you actively decided not to give people impacted by the new proposals a fair chance to provide feedback before progressing to the next stage of the project – alignment. This is very much against the advice that Gillian Martin, Energy Minister provided to Transmission Operators earlier in the year. This inconsistent approach to the project only adds to the distrust and frustration in the overall consultation process.

SSEN timelines for reviewing consultation seems to vary dramatically. As consequence of being in receipt of an abundance of feedback from the community the Report on Consultation was delayed by a few months. Conversely, this time - before the consultation period ended - SSEN has announced that the next phase of consultation project will be launched within a month of this consultation period ending. Curious. There is a feeling among residents that SSEN has already planned its next steps before the consultation feedback has been read and digested. This is compounded by the fact that landowners were contacted by SSEN consultants regarding route E4/F3 in June this year: at which point we were told SSEN was still reviewing the feedback.

Time and time again, this community has sense that this project is a fait accompli but it refuses to accept that this is the case.

It is often said by politicians up and down the country (UK and Scotland) that 'we must take communities with us.' This community is about as far from being with them as it gets.

Community Impact.

Many of our questions remain unanswered by SSEN in relation to the impact this will have on our community, the local area, the landscape, our physical and mental health, farming, wildlife, recreation, tourism and economics.

87.6% of our questionnaire respondents say that they anticipate a negative financial impact to them, their property or their business as a result of the overhead lines should they be built. To date, SSEN has not been forthcoming with any information offers compensation or community benefit to offset any negative impact our residents may encounter.

At the start of this process, SSEN claimed 9000 jobs would be created. CDDCC asked for details on this and have still not been provided with facts to back up this claim. However, in recent feedback to us on this matter, SSEN noted that it expects that 528 jobs will be created in the Scotland between now and 2035, which is enormously different. Please explain why there is this discrepancy.

It is also noted that SSEN plan to build hundreds of houses in our region to house workers for the project, this tells us that currently you have no plans to recruit people within our area to fill these jobs. Why is this not part of your strategy?

The enormous loss of value to hundreds of individual homeowners, businesses and farmers up and down the country remains unacknowledged without any form of plan for compensation. Until this huge loss is acknowledged and accounted for, SSEN are not in any position to recommend an overhead line as being the best way forward.



This project must be paused until adequate information, data and answers are provided to our community, the people of Scotland and our government.

Hurlie Substation – Fetteresso Forest.

Our stance on the substation remains, CDDCC object to the proposal of the Hurlie Substation within Fetteresso Forest as part of this proposal and consultation.

Our community have highlighted their dissatisfaction to SSEN's approach of "salami slicing". So we reiterate that we consider this proposal as a whole project and object to both elements.

The sheer size of what is being proposed is not comprehensible to members of the public and whilst SSEN have tried to outline future tie-ins, they are unable to provide exact details or accurate data on this, which simply means people are not aware of the bigger picture and the impact that placing this substation in this location will have. Any future capacity in addition to that highlighted already, will see the need for further expansion of Hurlie Substation.

The proposed substation will damage the natural woodland for wildlife and its habitants. Whilst SSEN claim to make significant commitments to restoring the environment following construction, we find this hard to believe, given the amount of land that will be consumed by this project and future tie-ins. It seems impossible that SSEN can repair the damage that will be done and at this stage we have no evidence of how they will ensure that the environment thrives and what actions they would take for the years following completion should the project go ahead.

SSEN has been unable to tell us where (within our area) they will replant all the trees that they will take down, if like for like planting can't take place, how can SSEN actively promote this as part of their strategy.

The proposed substation would destroy the environment of Fetteresso Forest as well as having a major impact on local residents, businesses, and roads infrastructure within the vicinity. There is no need for this substation to be built, if the proposed 400kV overhead line is routed to England via a subsea cable.

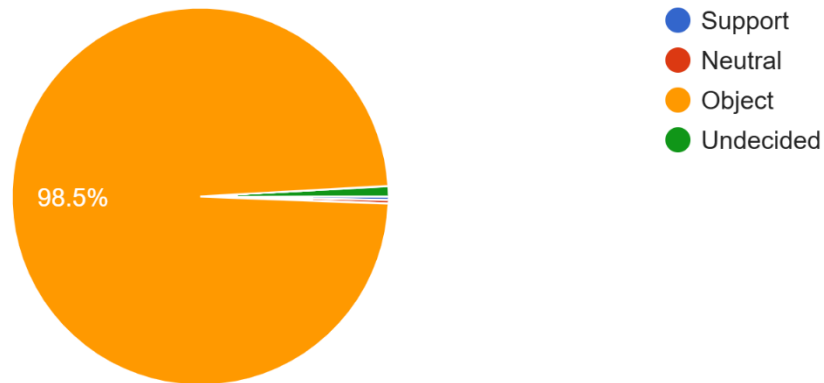


Appendix – Questionnaire Results

Objection.

What best describes your opinion on the 2 proposed pylon routes?

340 responses

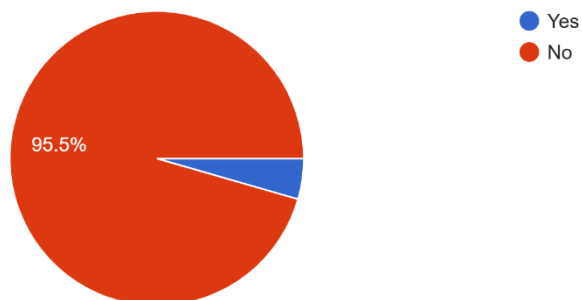


Results detail - 98.5% (335) Object, 0.9% (3) Undecided, 0.1% (1) Neutral, 0.1% (1) Support. Our understanding is the 1 answer supporting, supports the opinion of objecting, based on the commentary that followed.

Alternatives.

Are you satisfied that SSEN has explained why the Kintore to Tealing line has to be created using overhead lines?

337 responses



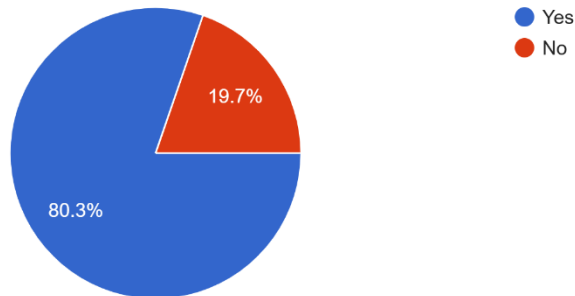
Results detail – 95.5% (332) No, 4.5% (15) Yes.



Alternatives.

The Kintore to Tealing overhead line route was borne out of a report issued by National Grid ESO in 2022. Do you support a review of the project in line with current costs and technology?

340 responses

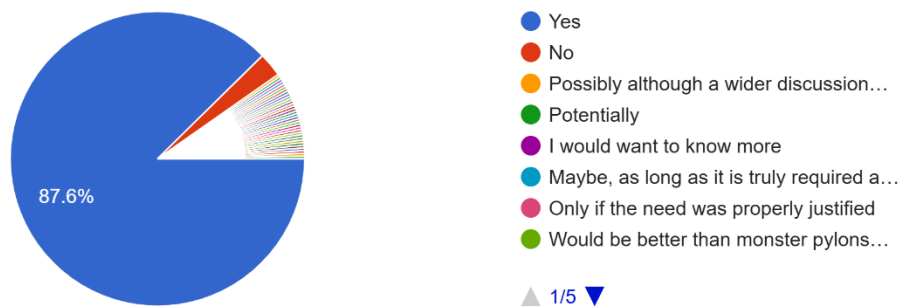


Project review results detail – 80.3% (273) Yes, 19.7% (67) No.

Alternatives.

Would you support the proposal if the route was placed offshore by way of a subsea cable?

340 responses



Offshore Results detail – 87.6% (287) Yes, 2.6% (9) No, 9.8% (44) need more detail. Full details of the “Need More Detail” can be provided upon request.

Alternatives.

Would you support the proposal if the route was placed underground?

340 responses



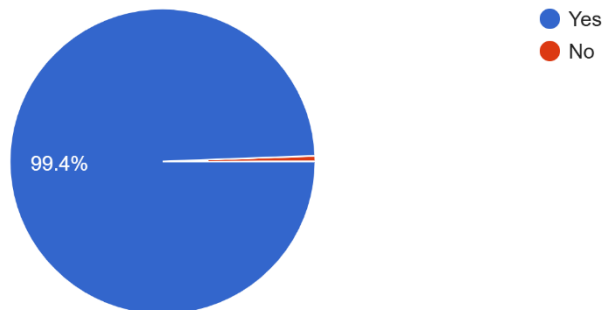
Underground results detail – 68.8% (234) Yes, 10% (34) No, 21.2% (72) need more detail. Full details of the “Need More Detail” can be provided upon request.



Environmental.

Are you concerned about the impact that the overhead lines could have on the environment, biodiversity and landscape?

340 responses

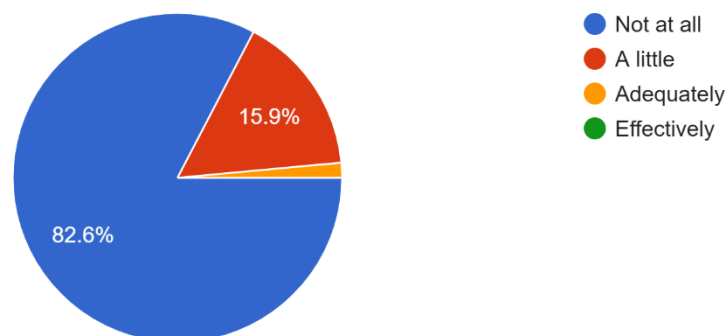


Environmental results detail – 99.4% (338) Yes, 0.6% (2) No.

Consultation.

Do you feel like SSEN has listened to your feedback during each consultation period?

340 responses

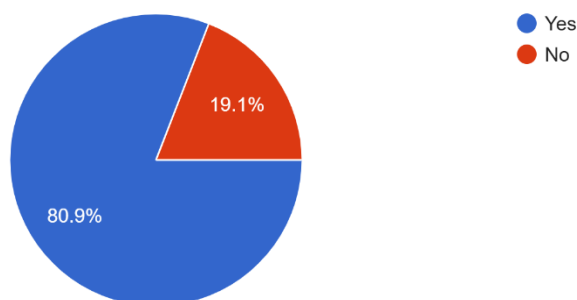


Environmental results detail – 82.6% (281) Not at all, 15.9% (54) A Little, 1.5% (5) Adequately, 0% (0) Effectively.

Health.

Do you feel like the proposals for overhead lines are having a detrimental impact on your health and wellbeing?

340 responses





Health & Wellbeing results detail – 80.9% (275) Yes, 19.1% (65) No.

Health.

If you answered yes to the question above, would you like to say how it is affecting your health and wellbeing?

Stress, uncertainly

These are places my family and I are out walking in daily. To think about them being desecrated in this way is incredibly sad and disheartening for our young peoples experiences of this part of Deeside. I feel stressed and anxious. The pylons will ruin the views from my house and destroy the property value. I am very concerned that I will be stuck in a house which is unsaleable and that the pylons will kill me.

It'll destroy the scenery, which, when out for a walk, is calming and helped with my mental health over the years I've lived in Drumoak. Pylons and constant buzzing will not help.

Stress of having Deeside blighted by this proposal

Stress of bringing my children up in the area and exposing them to health dangers .

Extreme mental stress and worried about physical implications

It's a depressing thought in the back of my mind

Anger and frustration

Mental stress

Anxiety and concern.

Potential house price impact and disruption if ever constructed would be awful and last 3 years

Causing such a lot of stress and worry

Anxiety

Stress, uncertainty, sleeping, worrying about health implications, sick in stomach, concern for future - financial value of home, resale impact, difficult to concentrate on other things - consuming and finally very emotive.

Worried about impact on quality of life (who would want to look at pylons from their home/garden!) and impact on property value.

anxiety, worry, stress

It's worrying that they can come in and just build them anywhere they feel like it without thoughts to the people who live there. It's making me anxious that these massive pylons will come and destroy our community.

It's stressful knowing how this will impact on our much loved countryside and people

Endless worry about the route being near our property, affecting mental wellbeing.

Making me very anxious

The current proposal means that the pylons will be seen from my property. This will dilute the visual aminty of my home and will probably impact on the marketability and market value when we decide to downsize after over 40 years.

Anxiety related to health effects of the proximity of pylons to my house, the effect on local environment, effect on house prices etc. This is experienced by both myself and my three young children

We live on a farm with livestock and essential crops. The overhead lines would have a hugely negative effect on these, our livelihood, potentially our health, our environment and the precious peaceful countryside. Consequently it will affect our mental health, made worse because there are other less intrusive , more advanced methods of supplying power .

It is causing me additional stress due to the impact it might have on my children. I am also concerned that I need to move house soon as looking for a larger property and worried my house will not sell due to this proposal. We want to move within and stay in our lovely village but may not do this if the power line comes.

I have invested all my time, effort and as much money as I could muster up to live here and now my family home is jeopardised by massive pylons at the end of the garden on both sides. Nobody should be subject to this. Invest in micro generation feeding into the existing grid. I have done that at personal expense with an 8-year payback time (solar panels) and this is my reward?

The unknown effects of exposure to EMFs especially as we have had our existing line increased by over 100% and then having another line in close proximity is very worrying.

The devaluation of our property and the possibility of not being able to sell when we want to.

The sad interference with the migration pathways of geese and the the fields that they use to rest in



having pylons in them, being informed conductors would be used to divert centuries of migration with a diversion signal is shocking and totally unacceptable, I can go on and on
I'm very concerned about the negative effects the proposed line would have on my physical health and the environment

Constant worry about the visual and environmental impact this will have on myself and the wider community. Also loss of value of my property and my ability to sell.

The proposed OHL route itself and the manner in which the consultations have been handled is causing excessive stress due to the impact the proposal would have on our family's health, finances and way of life enjoying the beautiful surroundings which would be forever blighted by the proposed OHL

As detailed above

As previously mentioned, the impact on mine and my family's health, the destruction and impact on the natural wildlife in the area, the noise from the electricity, the ability for my parents to sell on our home, the danger for if we have a severe storm - the thought of this proposal going ahead severely affects my mental health and it is causing me immeasurable amounts of anxiety and worry. We live in a beautiful and peaceful area of natural beauty, with incredible wildlife - and this proposal would simply destroy all of that.

Stress and anxiety and time consuming

Stress

Anxiety, upset and paralysing fear for my children's health.

Worried about my family and the impact of the pylons on our health in the future

This project is causing everyone near it much stress. I'd also be worried about effect of electro magnetic fields if this goes ahead. These things will be noisy which is just awful. Just should not be near residential areas.

I have objected to this project from the start, firmly believing that the lines should be subsea or underground, but over the last month since seeing the new route proposed through Upper Park I have been devastated, saddened, stressed to the point of sickness, and on attending the "consultation" this week almost reduced to tears, and left without words to express my upset. Myself, my family and my neighbours are all hugely stressed by these proposals and by all the uncertainty this proposal is causing.

I feel sick, and anxious, my sleep, diet and mental health has been seriously affected, im insensed that shareholders and profit have been the only deciding factor- in this desperate game of net zero- when planning and lying the position of these dangerous towering monstrosities.

Added stress knowing no one is listening and just want to proceed

Concerned that the big companies can do anything they like to disrupt and destroy people's homes with zero compassion for us. It's all profit driven.

If the pylons are required to transmit new clean energy to try and make the country more environmentally friendly, why are massive concrete and metal structures getting put up over the environment we are trying to preserve?

Impact sleep. Anxiety. Worried for family and future.

Major Stress

This has created tremendous worry, anxiousness and fear. We doubt our future in Drumoak, fear of economic loss on our house prices, fear of the health impacts and how the amenity of our home will be destroyed.

It has been a stress as one of the routes puts it in the field behind my house, so I know it would have a bit impact on all the reasons I object to. I am unsure of my future living here as I don't want to live next to a massive pylon!

This proposal has destroyed our enjoyment our home, garden, environment as we worry about how this will all be destroyed by Pylons being above our heads. I fear the health impacts, visual and noise impacts as well as the safety concerns of the pipeline.

The destruction of beautiful landscapes, the impact on wildlife, the legacy of industrial waste in the ground for future generations is awful to contemplate. Combined with the continuous political hype about why this is needed for Scotland when it is for profit of mainly overseas shareholders is hand take on board

I'm feeling totally overwhelmed by SSEN and the Scottish Government steam rolling over everyone and everything to either score political points or maximise profits for a project which hasn't been thought through thoroughly

Anxiety. Sleepless nights.



Worry

Causing stress and anxiety, worry about potential illness caused by electric and magnetic fields

Stress and anxiety, worry about potential illness caused by electric and magnetic fields

It is something that is constantly on my mind and takes up a lot of time in my thoughts when I should be enjoying my time and looking forward to retirement. I also feel stressed when I think about the impact this will have on the environment for generations to come. The loss in value of my property is also of a huge concern since SSEN have said there will be no compensation to affected properties.

They would affect many places where I choose to walk in the countryside and much more so for the people living closer. I would feel the need to avoid walking near to them as I know of many people's health affected in a previous location that I lived any those were much smaller pylons.

They would affect many places where I choose to walk in the countryside and much more so for the people living closer. I would feel the need to avoid walking near to them as I know of many people's health affected in a previous location that I lived any those were much smaller pylons.

I believe OHL is the wrong solution and it causes me a lot of mental stress in trying to find a way to stop this. It has taken over my life.

Continual stress at the prospect of being trapped in a home that is difficult to sell and that might not want to live in due to health risks and ugly, oppressive, noisy, industrialised environment

Creating stress over Impact on house prices, ability to sell houses, noise pollution.

Stress , powerlessness and despondency that SSEN are not listening and will push ahead no matter what.

Cannot enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside as forever thinking about how it will be ruined by the pylons.

Anxiety about construction, the pylons being there, value of our property, access to our homes during construction, having to live with them right next to us, health impact, safety impact, damage to the migrating birds who come every year . Also anger at the lack of empathy and basic decency of SSEN. And at the fact they are needed to be overhead at all.

I live with the constant worry that the area I live in will be destroyed, our way and quality of life in the area will be severely impacted and about possible greater health risks as a result of living close to the proposed pylon route. It is already causing sleepless nights and a feeling of despondency and depression, as well as a feeling of utter hopelessness that nobody is really listening to us.

For myself, and providing the line is 170m from my property, it will not affect my health. My concern is that it will reduce potential sale of property, create noise and increase mental stress for many. This was reported to me only last night when a lady left the Drumoak meeting in tears on finding out the the line was much closer to her house than she thought. There is also the EMF issue and the outdated research and codes used in the design of a 400kW, 6gW OHL this question requires a comprehensive answer

Lack of sleep. Concern for my children's health and my home. My family future is in the balance. All I see are pylons now. I am in therapy.

I remain concerned that our environment and social well-being will be impacted to the extent that families will leave that area, particularly when the OHL's are so close to the children in the primary school

It makes me anxious and angry and worry what will happen if this is allowed to go ahead. I will probably have to move house.

Large pylons will spoil the environment for no benefit to local people

The proposal is creating anxiety and sleepless nights.

Myself and my neighbours are extremely stressed by these proposals. The first thing I knew of them was when a cross appeared on the private road to my house. I found the initial consultations (I attended the Peterculter one) very distressing because it was obvious that the SSEN panel knew nothing of the area, were patronising and were completely unprepared for the strength of feeling shown by the attendees. I find it very upsetting to talk to any of them, because they just insist that they are following instructions from the government. One of them however did say "if I lived in your house, I would be upset too!

Close proximity of pylons to home with possible medical and view aspect and effect on property value
High levels of anxiety about the process of the build, and the restriction of life choices as consequence of not being able to move again.

The worry of the impact on our health, the loss of excellence farming land, the omissions, the effect on livestock.



The thought of these pylons has put a massive amount of stress on our whole family. We have lived in the area all our lives,

and the reason we love it is the amazing untouched countryside.

I worry a lot about the value of our home which we hoped would help us in later life if we need care. I also will not want to sit out in my front garden enjoying the view we value greatly and was part of the reason why we bought our home. I find my thoughts are distracted which is not good for my concentration and relationships with my family. I worry for the health of my grandchildren when they visit in the future

From our house, and assuming an alternate route is chosen - we will be looking at about 120m straight at one pylon, and will have views along the line in both directions - as it crosses the valley and river to the south, and as it goes over the hill to the north.

We wanted to spend the last years of our lives living in a beautiful part of Scotland we call home not staring at industrial scale transmission lines, thinking about the beautiful place we have lost, in a house that could be impossible to sell

The worry and stress created by the present proposals is causing sleepless nights, anxiety, frustration and depression.

Before December 2023 I had freedom of life choices in relation to planning my retirement years in relation to where my family and I would spend our future years.

Now we are trapped and consigned to living in our current current location whether we want to or not because of the prolonged uncertainty and duration of this project and it's future expansions.

The weight of this is now a constant burden and overtime will erode our health and mental wellbeing.

I didn't attend the SSEN events so far as I have anger issues over the plans which would not be helpful. The anger has built up after reading all the plans on the SSEN web site. We moved back to Aberdeenshire in 2022 after leaving our last country side house where a plan was approved to build 1200 houses on what was green belt and designated country park. The fight was exhausting and we lost. Thought I was getting away from all that. But landed with something potentially worse. My mental health is suffering, I was diagnosed with depression 12 months ago and referred to a councillor. We discussed the above subjects, but as I am pretty powerless to effect SSEN plans and now Labour saying they will stop NIMBYs. I have to try and put this issue behind me, because the suppressed anger is the cause of my depression. Even sitting here now I can feel my anger building again.

Stress of large unwanted development near home, worry for health impact on my two young children (one is two years and one is three months old), loss of property value, loss of local amenity. Every time I go for a walk I am thinking how badly the area will be impacted by the pylon development.

It will adversely affect our local environment and have a major effect on family members living in close proximity to the proposed pylons who have quite rightly expressed concerns about the effects of electromagnetic emissions from these structures plus the disturbing effects of wind noise

These proposals are having a hugely detrimental effect on our household's wellbeing. Being a small landowner we are very worried about the effect the potential pylons, and associated land works, will have on our home and livestock.

These proposals have introduced unnecessary concerns that, if properly handled, could have been avoided. SSEN has been entirely negligent in listening to local communities' concerns and has presented the OHL as a 'done deal' which is totally unacceptable.

Very concerned already and this is having a huge effect on my personal mental health. I have deep concerns relating to the wellbeing of equine livestock on our smallholding as well as the severe detrimental effect on physical health and property values.

Current the anxiety and feeling of being dictated to has effected myself and my family. These concerns in the longer term relate to the legitimate concerns over the pylons impact on health and well being which i do not believe has been adequately or truthfully explained

With a pylon planned to be 10m from my driveway I will have to pass under it every day It is like a horrible torture and is having an horrendous negative effect on me and my family's mental wellbeing.

We think about it every day. The stress and anxiety will continue effectively for ever if this gets built.

Property values are also a major concern.

Moved here to be surrounded by beauty- seeing monster pylons everyday will make me depressed and worry about health effect

It is very anxiety inducing, the uncertainty is just awful.

My wife and I are in our 60's. We bought our house for our retirement because of its position and the views over Deeside. We've studied, worked and saved hard to give ourselves the best possible retirement. Neither of us are in the best of health, and the positioning of pylons right outside our front windows is causing untold stress. Aside from the aesthetic impact on the views from our house, there are the health issues associated with proximity to pylons, and the financial impact on the value of our



property due to the proximity of the pylons. The value of our property is based on its position and views, so the pylons will have a huge impact on the saleability of the house when we eventually have to sell and downsize. SSEN appears to have no moral compass. The current overhead line route is the path of least resistance and in no way addresses any associated emotional or health impacts. Every waking minute is now occupied by the stress and heartbreak of potentially having to live with these monstrous pylons.

It is causing stress to me and all around

It will rob myself and my wife of our living and our way of life.k

My well-being depends as explained above. They will be destroying a disabled person's workplace.

Causing great worry- especially about the health and well-being of my mother.

Constant worry about the impact on our health in the future

Noise and constant maintenance and loss of farmland

Anxious how it will affect our health and house price

It's causing me stress and anxiety thinking about the effects it will have on the running of our family farm.

The stress of knowing how our daily lives will be impacted then concerns about our health going forward living in close proximity to pylons. The risk to livestock who will then be in fields around the pylons, they will then be part of the food chain.

Stress re impact personal and to others.

Concern for family and neighbours. Impact of segregating community

Long term impact to physical and mental health

I already live within quarter of a mile of an existing pylon line. If this were to go ahead we would be sandwiched between two lines. Existing research confirms that continual exposure to these lines are unhealthy for members of the public. Given we are in the 21st century there must be an alternate option instead of ruining the landscape and placing residents at risk.

As described above, we will be sandwiched in between 2 pylon lines. I have not been given any reassurance from SSEN of any updated data regarding health other than they state they adhere to the current health research guidelines which I believe were published 2004. This has been proved to be inaccurate by a member of the local community, who is in the medical profession.

Mentally it is driving me crazy. I struggle to look outside the window without imagining pylons. And having seen the computer model today, it is worse than I imagined.

I also stress about the value loss of my house and the years of my work that will be lost trying to save money to make up the loss of my property value. The SSEN shareholders will benefit from that, a direct subsidy from me. That makes me angry.

Additionally, the increasing possibility that I will have to move is also causing me stress

Stress and worry about the ongoing uncertainty, property devaluation (that is total dismissed out of hand by SSEN reps) and possible health risks (what if the science proves detrimental health effects in 5 or 10 years time eg the next asbestos)

Obstructing local beauty spots negatively impacting wellbeing

Increased stress and anxiety related to the impact the proposals are having.

Sleepless nights, anxiety, stress, fear for future. Financial worries so am working more than I feel able to, saving for future to ensure we can afford to downsize if property value slumps as is predicted. They still have not answered any question on health. I have a defibrillator fitted and have had no response to what is the emi/emf from the high voltage lines. I am not allowed to go on travellers due to magnetic fields or be scanned at airports. If I walk under these high voltage lines will they affect me? Having just suffered a ventricular fibrillation episode in which the defibrillator saved my life, how can they not say what effect these generated magnetic fields will have on an individual? Every time they are referring to out of date health studies and not current ones which also show a link with leukaemia for people living in the shadow of these monsters.

Anxiety

Stress

Concerned about the long term health implications. The stress and worry is considerable. We retired here NOT to be faced with this

Stressful situation for all the family. Worried about being stuck if the house can't be sold and feel we are being forced to move out of the area if don't want to live under oppressive pylons which might well affect health



Saddened initially as think it's beautiful here and this would impact and also I worry as would be extremely near about noise and exposure

Stress due to unknown repercussions pertaining to proposed route

Stress, depression and strong feelings of anger and frustration

Frustration, indignation and anger.

Ongoing worry of the current line and the continued increasing of lines in the future

Visual and noise of lines in areas which I walk

Stress and pressure of property value reduction coupled with Heath worries, most reports about pilons are negative and point to the increased cancer risks!! It's very stressful

Unhappy with negative effect in community

Higher stress levels, lower mood, feeling of pointlessness

Stress and worry

The stress of the continual writing of letters of objection. The stress of living in a house which at this moment in time will be greatly devalued due to the uncertainty of what is going to happen. The stress of telling other people not to believe SSEN when they say the only doubt is about the route and not about the method. I feel I am continually hitting my head against a brick wall to make people aware.

The stress engendered by the ongoing uncertainties. In order to top-up our retirement fund my wife and I know that we will need to downsize in the foreseeable future. Will we be able to sell? How badly will it's value be affected? When will all the uncertainty be over? I am also enraged by the smoke-and-mirrors and sleight of hand of SSEN and the government.

Causing lots of worry and stress. Feels like we are under attack!

Worried about health issues the line will cause in such close proximity to family farm

The constant uncertainty about what our future holds

The constant worry about what impact this could have on our home and surroundings. Increased stress and anxiety.

It is simply heart-breaking seeing my parents so concerned about the impact these powerlines could have on their future and retirement plans

Increased levels of stress and anxiety, manifesting as stomach discomfort.

Our community is in despair over this and all the other proposed large industrial projects in our rural area

Mental health and anxiety

mental health re risks and very worried

Stress! My House is currently on the market

I may live too far away but a big potential impact to people and animals nearer.

It takes time to read, understand and object to these proposals. The lack of information and knowledge from the initial SSEN consultations just forged confusion and mistrust. Although my wellbeing is not affected hugely I see how it has affected others including older residents and children.

The worry about the impact these will have on values and health

Concerns over health implications

property values in particular are being affected. Many pensioners rely on their house value to see them through their remaining life. We are considering moving to a warmer climate, and property value is critical in ensuring our living standards are not eroded. Anxiety and worry affects our health.

Constant uncertainty about what, when and how much new infrastructure I will be required to accept and just how much the place I call home will change is deeply unsettling. If you don't like what's happening you can often vote with your feet however if the value and desirability of your property takes a bashing you are largely trapped.

It is adding stress to us due to the concerns regarding it's impact on our community as well as the potential for our homes to decrease in value.

I'm sure it is for some people though

Poor sleep, worry about future.

Causing stress, anxiety, and fear. Concerns over road impact and house prices. There are political, environmental, economic and medical factors to this project that have not been taken into account by SSEN when there are alternative technologies that exist without damage to people and the environment.

re question on supporting review - as long as offshore strategy coting is part of the review



re support for review - with comparative costings for subsea cabling

Anxiety and exacerbating an existing heart condition. Worrying about visual impact on the area and proximity to the local school.

Concern about emerging health issues and effects of proximity of lines. Value of house against end of life care.

Stress

A number of reasons:

I bought my house 35 years ago at the age of 25, as a derelict cottage which I stumbled upon when I was 14 and always said it was my dream location. It has been a labour of love and transformed from a derelict mill cottage to a beautiful and very loved home. It breaks our hearts and causes great stress to think of the enormous blight on the landscape running right past our property. We are not people who oppose any developments in our back yard, and have been supportive, sometimes unpopularity so for doing so for backing certain developments, however, the scale of the proposed pylons and proximity to our property is horrendous.

We had thought about creating a holiday accommodation business in the neighbouring derelict mill building but these plans are now shelved. Ie more stress and dreams ruined.

Stress, anxious about carcinogenic issues

Stressful

Anger, frustration and unnecessary stress

Anxiety. Worry. Affecting mental health.

Since the first letter from Dalcour Maclaren stating the line would go close to our house, anxiety, stress, low mood, anger, poor sleep, financial concern, physical health concern, powerlessness, concern for the environment trashing SSSI, LNCS, historic well, private water supply.

Stress /anxiety/anger/loss of sleep/grief

Anxiety and stress over effect on houses, wildlife and the landscape in general

I am spending hours trying to get governments to look at the scientific research around this area, which they are ignoring.

Angry, anxious, powerless

I'm extremely worried that our wonderful landscape will be permanently and seriously damaged by these pylons and the line. Also extremely frustrated at the reluctance to consider and then invest in a much preferable offshore solution.

The consultation process and approach to planning is intentionally fragmented to make it difficult to object. The number of meetings, constations requiring repeated objections on the same grounds is unreasonably burdensome.

I would be angry each time I see them

Mental health affect with the industrialisation of our landscapes.

Worried about my family's health, property values and future farm diversification we won't be able to do

Worries about future health,noise, future value of our house.

I'm worried about the visual and amenity impact of the pylons, increased mental stress currently. Also concerned about noise and hess as others issues of electricity lines.

Out of date health analysis, lied to and not listened to. Devaluation of property. Not being able to sell property.

Destroying countryside . Devaluing property.

Feeling totally overwhelmed, ignored, anxious, dried and helpless

Significant stress from potential health, financial and mental well being

Anxiety over impact on health of my children and family, and over the impact on property prices, and the adverse affect on the local community.

Retirement plans destroyed. Condemned to live in a house looking at a desecrated countryside

Emotional and mental health is deeply affected. Most living in the beautiful Aberdeenshire countryside do so for its beauty of nature. The loss of the countryside, the negative impact of house prices leading to a sense of imprisonment in a location that no longer provides the same comfort through it beauty, and the effect of EMF have a very real impact on people's mental wellbeing.

All of the current proposals would impact my property either directly or by being close by. This is causing me concern and stress in regards the potential health impacts on my young family and also the potential loss of value of the property we've saved long and hard to purchase.

Stress



Stress

Anxiety, depression loss of sleep

Affecting sleep detrimentally, in thoughts frequently and often crops up in conversations with friends creating tension. Fear for physical and mental health of those living or working in the vicinity of any pylon.

Depression

A very stressful situation.

Depression from prospect of invasive infrastructure which will decimate the land and ruin my life. Visually disturbing, noisy, electro magnetic radiation, health risks, and wildlife habitat loss.

Causes constant worry for everyone affected in the community.

Mental health is impacted. Also having to look at monster pylons from my garden in perpetuity will impact my mental health.

They pass in front of my house I'm concerned for health reasons and loss of value of my home

Anxiety adding to my already serious heart condition

Possible health issues/property value diminished/desecrating the countryside.

Constant worry that my home of 33 years will become un-saleable, and I will spend my declining years in poverty.

One route would be very close to house

I now worry about being able to sell my house & downsize, I worry about financial & health implications and feel depressed about the idea of being surrounded by pylons.

Stress. Unable to make plans for the future not knowing whether our home will hold its value or whether we'll be able to sell it when we're ready to move. Having to invest time in engaging with and objecting to these proposals is robbing us of time we could be using more productively.

It causes stress, frustration & anxiety. The time needed to follow the project is relentless - hours of my life trying to gather accurate information on the process & the accumulative effects of the various projects being proposed throughout Scotland. Financially my house price will also drop which has caused additional stress.

It causes anger, stress & frustration. Financially my house price will also drop which has caused additional stress. Having decades of personal experience in subsea cabling it seems incomprehensible why this is not been considered.

Noise, health issues from electrical emissions

It takes away land that can be used for recreation thereby meaning people can exercise less

It is ruining our precious countryside which can never be returned

It is causing great worry in my family, as the proposed pylons will be going right through our family farm, completely destroying the farm.

Constant anxiety about the effect on our land, the environment and its impact on health.

The prospect of having a pylon situated in close proximity to our home or child's school is extremely stressful. We choose to live in a semi rural area, close to nature and unspoiled land, the prospect of losing that in addition to the long term impact on the environment is extremely stressful.

Constant worry about the destruction of the area I live in, a country location where biodiversity and wildlife is already struggling. Health issues caused by largely untested equipment affecting people.

Constant worry about the destruction of the area I live in, a country location where biodiversity and wildlife is already struggling. Health issues caused by largely untested equipment affecting people.

Sleepless nights concerned about impact on area and wildlife

Stress caused

Worried and anxious, feeling helpless

Worried about my local community and impact on neighbours

It generates a lot of concern for the future and long term well being of our community and countryside.

Wellbeing rather than health as enjoyment of nature & countryside is spoiled by these proposed monstrosities

Stress at the unknown. Worry about the impact on health/safety and perhaps the need to move home.

The financial impact on my house price.

Radiation emissions

Anxiety, worry, neighbours and friends talk about nothing else now.



Impacting on mental health, impacts on sleep with the anxiety that it has caused.

Worry and sleep loss

Worried

I understand that there are enough cases claiming links to health that I am concerned. where there is any risk we should not be going forward with these plans.

The lack of transparency, the feeling of not being listened to, the concern for others who are more impacted than me, and the worry about possible detrimental health impacts of the 6GW line has led to me feeling more stressed than usual.

High power lines like that can be detrimental to people and animals in general especially if located so close to the school and housing

Worried

I have been off with stress

However I am very aware of others in the community who have endured greatly increased stress and anxiety as a result of this proposal

Mostly because it is distressing my friends and neighbours and I want to support them

Worry

Worry & stress regarding impact on children's health & devaluation of property.

Concerns over health of children & devaluation of property.

The line runs across land that I keep my horse on and therefore I'm exposed to any detrimental health effects caused by the lines.

Unknown health deficits Very intrusive in appearance and possible noise from pylons Traffic to built and maintain pylons

Mental health. Worry for my kids and animals, see pylons everywhere, housing cost drop and being stuck!

There is the constant stress of worrying about whether or when this will go ahead. I also know that simply walking close to powerlines causes me to have headaches and nausea. The idea of living close to one, or friends living close to one, leaves me feeling anxious and horrified that people's well-being has so little value. There is a grief within me that nature and well-being has so little value that these overhead lines is seen as a viable option at all. There is a lack of integrity within this project and a lack of planning, foresight and consideration for the long term well-being. I feel that it is going to cause so many more problems down the line. It is a constant source of stress to me, leaving me anxious about the future for myself, my family and my friends.

childhood leukaemia.

Affects our environment and all that that entails.

Affects our environment and all that that entails.

I am concerned that we are not thinking meaningfully about future energy infrastructure and what the real needs are going to be for ALL stakeholders. That combined with the number of upset and anxious friends and neighbours is rather depressing.

The structural integrity of the pylons is a serious concern. Their compromised state poses significant risks to safety and stability. Immediate inspection and remediation are crucial to mitigate potential hazards. Ignoring these warning signs could have severe consequences for the entire structure. A proactive approach to maintenance is essential for ensuring long-term viability.

worrying concerns over our property value and its decrease; and obliterating our current views.

It's yet another large infrastructure like the many windfarms that we as residents have no control over, our objections and comments are simply ignored.

Stress over property prices and intrusiveness; potential for cancer from EM radiation

I enjoy the east facing aspect of my garden an unspoilt view of fields and trees. Sadly my north south and western facing views are of a run of existing pylons. I worry for the reduction in my house value, years of paying in to a mortgage just to lose the value of that investment because of the new proposed pylons; potentially our ability to be pay in our old age for our care costs. I feel angry that there's no consideration for impact on the beautiful landscape as the gateway to Deeside and beautiful Aberdeenshire countryside.

Stress

Simple - it is depressing to see these things dominate your everyday view

I moved from the central belt to have a better life in the countryside , for both my health and well-being , to have this on my doorstep would affect both



Constant feeling of anxiety about it, and pressure that we should be doing more to protest against it to prevent it.

Had a slight distraction this year to not let these come into the equation this year, however I feel for those I see suffering. I have friends are directly suffering with a proposed pylon being placed as close as possible to their house. However I think that the whole community will suffer financially as the potential for future project to go ahead will be wide open in the future.

I am worried as to what route they are going to chose in the end. Alternative route runs 300 meters from my house. I have troubles sleeping since I received our first letter from SSEN that we are effected. I am worried about the health of my children and our house value. We bought this lovely house in Drumoak 2 years ago and if I knew this project is about to happen I would have never done it.

Stress. Concern for the people and the way we are being walked over and totally disregarded. Anxiety about the devastating impact the proposals would have on the community. Stress has been significantly increased by the attitude of SSEN staff who consistently lack compassion, are disrespectful and unable to listen to and address concerns raised during the consultantion process.

Causes anxiety

Worried for the wildlife impact, and for the local school

The construction of these monster pylons near to our home will cause years of disruption including road closures, noise, dirt and will affect property prices.

I'm very concerned about the impact that pylons of that size can have on the health of those living nearby. I've read research regarding how detrimental it can be to the health of those who live near this type of structures. I'm also concerned about the damage and destruction to the environment and wildlife, and the detrimental visual impact to the countryside in the area we live.

Very stressed. Extremely worried about my house price falling. I live on my own and all of my long-term savings are invested in my house. Having now read research on the health impacts, I am terrified I will develop cancer living so close to the pylons.

The worry caused by the proposals and the manner in which they are presented continues to be detrimental.

Negative impact on mental health.

Stress anxiety over financial loss, family well being and destruction of countryside.

I have been extremely anxious, unable to sleep, unable to concentrate, worrying constantly, feeling sick with nerves.

Stress, anxiety, anger.

I am concerned about potential health consequences for local residents as the health risks are unknown living so close to pylons of this size

Stress and anxiety due to uncertainty and feeling that the community I live in is not being listened too, and the impact on our lives during the construction phase (years), impact on house prices, and impact/destruction on my enjoyment of the area I have lived in for many years (16)

I find myself thinking about it daily, especially first and last thing.

Indeed I would. Due to the knowledge I now have on why this project should not go ahead (technically, environmentally and especially what it is doing to the communities impacted) coupled with my passion and determination to stop SSEN it consumes my every waking moment to the detriment of not only my wellbeing but to those around me. A degree of anxiety, frustration and ill-temper generally out of character for me is a constant presence and it would appear to be escalating along with increasing feelings of foreboding.

It is affecting it badly and depressing.Scotland will be ruined.

Undue stress associated the industrialisation being horses upon us.

It is playing with my mental health,

Impact on my mental health - increased level of anxiety, causing fear and distress about the uncertainty.

Will destroy the visual amenity of my home permanently.

The wire noise pollution, disruption from construction.

The value of my home will fall.

It spoils the beauty of our countryside. It is very unpleasant to have it near us. If affects our mental health and wellbeing.

Financial and health concerns about our children and ourselves.

Concerns about living close to these pylons - especially for my children.