

Jacqui Russell
Department of Energy & Climate Change
4th Floor, Area C
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW



24 September 2010

Dear Ms Russell

Re: Ofgem Review: Call for Evidence

The English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) exists to support the policy making process by co-ordinating the views of the ten English National Park Authorities. It is governed by the Chairs of the ten Authorities. Our response represents the collective view of officers who are working within the policies established by the National Park Authorities (NPAs).

National Park Authorities are a type of local authority, funded through Defra with statutory purposes as set out in the *Environment Act 1995*. They are charged with helping to look after England National Parks. These are largely rural areas of the country that make up 9.3% of England's land area. A significant aspect of NPA work is climate change mitigation and adaptation, which includes both land management activities and helping National Park communities move towards a low carbon future. In enabling this important climate change work, NPAs ensure that any actions taken are appropriate for protected landscapes and so do not compromise the special qualities of the area for which it was designated.

ENPAA welcomes the Department of Energy & Climate Change's consultation review of Ofgem. We note that that Ofgem's powers and duties (as referenced in the consultation document) include the need for the Authority to have regard "to the need to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in carrying out its duties". We would like to see this duty expanded to include a specific reference to the conservation of the natural environment. The current Defra discussion document *An invitation to shape the Nature of England* (issued for consultation in advance of the forthcoming Natural Environment White Paper) sets out a position where the trade-off between economic growth and environmental protection is ended, and where environmental degradation is halted. This is a position that ENPAA strongly supports.

Where future energy proposals would affect a National Park, ENPAA would also draw attention to the duty under Section 62 of the *Environment Act 1995* for all relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of National Parks in their decisions. These purposes are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park; and
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities by the public.

English National Park Authorities Association

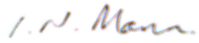
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ENPAA recommends that these points are incorporated into the remit of Ofgem as part of the current review process.

We are happy for this response to be made publicly available and would be happy to discuss any of the points we make further with officials if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Iain Mann".

Iain Mann
ENPAA Climate Change Project Officer