



Dr Howard Stoate MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

4 May 2006

Dear Dr Stoate

Thank you for your letter regarding the Parliamentary Commission you are convening on EMFs. We are responding as the representatives of the electricity industry on SAGE.

The electricity industry is completely committed to a responsible resolution of this issue. We have long supported high-quality independent research into the electric and magnetic fields produced by the power system (EMFs) and their possible health effects. Likewise, we have long had a policy of open communication with the public on this issue, and we maintain a website which is among the world's leading source of factual information, at [www.emfs.info](http://www.emfs.info).

We recognise that the issue of what is the right policy response for society as a whole – what constitutes a proportionate precautionary response – is one that can only be resolved by the participation of all stakeholders. Accordingly, in 2003 we took the initiative to establish a forum in which a range of stakeholders could address precisely this issue. Those initial meetings have evolved into a formal process, the Stakeholder Advisory Group on ELF EMFs (SAGE), and the Department of Health have indicated that SAGE is the initial vehicle for fulfilling the recommendation in 2004 of the Health Protection Agency to Government to consider possible precautionary measures.

We are completely committed to the SAGE process. It contains all the relevant stakeholders, citizen groups and independent scientists as well as Government and industry, over 40 participants in total. The balance of participants in SAGE is designed to ensure that a consensus will emerge rather than any one group dominating the proceedings or determining the outcome. It has assembled and critically reviewed factual material from the whole range of sources, not just any single source be it industry or anyone else. It has looked at the issues in depth, with two working groups each holding a dozen or more full-day meetings.

Because of our commitment to the SAGE process we do not wish to do anything that could be construed as undermining SAGE. As a consequence, we do not feel it would be helpful to engage in depth with your commission at this critical stage in the SAGE process. Nevertheless, as part of our commitment to open communication on this issue, we already have a large amount of information in the public domain, and we will assemble some of the more relevant and send it to interested Members of Parliament shortly. However, we do hope you will understand that we feel it would be unhelpful to the SAGE process to go further at this stage.

### ***well connected***

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After the SAGE Report is published, which will probably be in June, the situation might well be different and we would be happy to consider discussing this issue further. However, in order to add value to the policy process, we would strongly urge you to delay concluding your proceedings until after then, so that you can take account of the in-depth analysis of the issues, incorporating all viewpoints, that the Report will contain.

For a process such as SAGE to succeed, participants need to have trust in the integrity of the process, and we are committed to ensuring this integrity at all times. We are sure you will understand our commitment to SAGE as the best avenue for resolving this issue in a constructive, non-partisan way, and our determination not to do anything further to damage it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Glover', is written over a light grey rectangular background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PP  
Tony Glover, Energy Networks Association  
Ross Hayman, National Grid  
Gareth Llewellyn, National Grid  
Keith MacLean, Scottish and Southern  
Hector Pearson, National Grid  
David Renew, National Grid  
John Swanson, National Grid

C.C.

Michael Connarty MP  
Dr Ian Gibson MP  
Sandra Gidley MP  
Nicj Hurd MP