

Infrastructure Access Statement

In accordance with UKRN Cross-sector
Infrastructure Access Statement Advice Note
Version: 1

May 2017



About this document

Following a review of the experience of infrastructure businesses and others (termed 'clients') that must arrange to cross or work near the in-situ assets of regulated utilities and rail networks, the UKRN published an advice note outlining the information to include in an access statement and the questions that may arise from network operators when preparing their statement.

The purpose of an access statement is to improve the clarity for clients of the processes that a network operator requires to reach agreement for asset protection and other arrangements to install infrastructure or undertake other work where an incumbent's assets may be disturbed. It is also aimed at strengthening the transparency and consistency of a network operator's processes.

As a member of the UKRN, the Utility Regulator has asked SONI to publish a statement on its website to clarify arrangements for access to the Transmission Network in NI.

What is an 'access statement'?

An access statement presents the practical information necessary for clients when crossing or working near the assets of utility or rail network operator (an 'interaction'). Its purpose is to ensure network operators adopt a clear, predictable and easily understood process for interactions when dealing with clients. It should be easy for clients to find this information and to understand it, for example, prominently published on a network operator's website, using simple language and being clear about the roles or positions of relevant staff. A client can be any person or business that needs a network operator's permission or co-operation when installing their own infrastructure or to undertaking work on land in which the network operator has installed assets

SONI's Role

SONI is the licensed Transmission System Operator (TSO) in Northern Ireland and is responsible for planning and operating the transmission system safely and securely to ensure a reliable supply of electricity.

SONI is required to develop and maintain efficient, co-ordinated and economical electricity transmission system.

Key Information for Access to the Electricity Transmission System in Northern Ireland

Connection to the NI Electricity Transmission System

SONI is responsible for offering terms to customers for new connections, or for modification of existing connections, to the transmission system. Parties considering connection should contact connections@soni.ltd.uk at the earliest opportunity to discuss their options. You can also contact us by phone on 028 90794336.

We also define the connection arrangements, including any reinforcement works on the transmission system required to facilitate connection to the transmission system and distribution system. We work closely with NIE Networks in its role as Transmission Owner (TO) and Distribution Network Owner (DNO).

Information regarding the processes to be followed and charging arrangements can be found at soni.ltd.uk.

All Other Access Requirements

NIE Networks is the owner of the transmission system in NI. It has also been asked by the Utility Regulator to publish an Access Statement, which can be found on its website nienetworks.co.uk.