

3 August 2022

Dear Mr Hallas,

Thank you for contacting me about community energy, the Local Electricity Bill and the Government's Energy Security Bill. Please accept my profuse apologies for the delay in responding. I am currently receiving an exceptionally high level of correspondence. With my small team, I am working hard to respond to everyone as quickly as possible.

I strongly support the development of local and community-owned renewable energy generation and supply, which can play a vital role in bringing about the change we need to see if we are to meet our climate change targets. Yet as the Power for People campaign highlights, at present there are too many barriers to producing and supplying energy at a local level. I have therefore believed for some time that we need to provide greater access to energy markets for local projects.

It is for this reason that I am pleased to support measures such as those set out in the Local Electricity Bill and believe the Government should be promoting them as part of a wider plan for community and local energy. In my view, this would make a significant difference for the future of local energy in this country. Enabling people to sell the energy they produce to their neighbours, friends and local businesses would be a tremendous step forward in the recognition of what we need to do when it comes to delivering the low-carbon future necessary to tackling the climate crisis.

As you will know, in the May 2022 Queen's Speech, the Government committed to introducing an Energy Security Bill. Unfortunately, as you will also know, the Government has opposed the measures in the Local Electricity Bill and has not proposed that the Energy Security Bill will include any of them. However, I can assure you that I will monitor the progress of the Bill once it is introduced, including considering any amendments tabled at later stages of the Bill's progress aimed at promoting local energy. It is important that we make our energy system work for the low-carbon and renewable energy of the future and making the grid more friendly for local energy is an important part of this.

Thank you once again for contacting me. I can assure you that I will continue to back efforts to press the Government on this issue and to call for local energy to be given the support, promotion and backing that it deserves.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Helen

Sent on behalf of Helen Hayes MP
Member of Parliament for Dulwich and West Norwood

Register for Helen's newsletter [here](#)