SSEN Distribution Response to RIIO ED2 - Draft Determination`

SSEN Annex, 5. Innovation

Question ID	SSEN-Q11.
Question	What are your views on the level of proposed NIA funding for SSEN?
Response	

We believe that the levels of funding are appropriate for the first three years and will allow SSEN to meet the innovation-related commitments it has made to its stakeholders for that period (see our response to CORE-Q9).

However, we strongly believe that a similar level of funding is required in years 4 and 5 to meet the continued needs and aspirations of our stakeholders in relation to consumer vulnerability and the net zero transition.

We also believe that uncertainty beyond year 3 has the potential to undermine trust and damage the momentum of our engagement with stakeholders and in particular the innovation community resulting in a dilution of the benefits that can be achieved during ED2. As a result, we would welcome Ofgem's committing to the purpose and level of funding in year 4/5 with an option for review of the exact nature of the governance that surrounds that funding in parallel with other sector price reviews.