



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Chris Philp MP
Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire
Home Office
Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Reference No. HW57714

24 October 2023

Dear Chris

As you may know, Cleve Hill Solar Park is a large solar development currently under construction in my constituency.

The project – which once completed would be the largest solar farm in the UK – includes a very large battery, for which the developers have had to produce a Battery Safety Management Plan.

This Plan was recently published, and there is serious concern locally that it does not sufficiently mitigate the risks of the project.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service have been consulted, and the Plan is currently being reviewed by the local authority. However as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project I believe we have a duty to consider this from a national perspective too.

Large renewable projects are important for our domestic energy security and transition to Net Zero. But it's not right to put them on local residents without the proper assurances on safety.

I would be grateful to meet with you to discuss the project, and what support the government can provide to ensure these assurances are in place.

Yours ever

Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent