



The Government of Sark

COMMITTEE OFFICE, LA CHASSE MARETTE, SARK GY10 1SF

9th September 2025

To Sark Electricity Limited

For the attention of the Board of Directors Mr Alan Witney Price and Mr James Penney

The proposed imposition of levies by SEL

We refer to your publicly stated intent to include a 'Legal Levy' and a '2025 EPC Price Consultation Levy' on bills for the provision of electricity issued by Sark Electricity Limited (SEL). We also note the recent preliminary conclusion of the Electricity Price Control Commissioner ('EPCC') that the introduction of these levies is 'very clearly, neither fair nor reasonable'.

As you know, we are responsible in practical terms for the payment of utility bills relating to premises owned or administered by or on behalf of Chief Pleas. In that capacity we write to inform you, as you would likely expect in the circumstances, that if any such levy is included in any bill issued by SEL next month in respect of the provision of electricity to any such premises, it shall not be paid. These premises include, but are not limited to -

- the Abattoir
- the Visitor Centre
- the Medical Centre
- the Ambulance shed
- Sark School
- the sewage plant
- the incinerator and quarry
- Island borehole pumps
- Harbour Store
- Harbour Toilets
- The Committee Office, fire station & assembly room
- La Maseline harbour, office & lights
- Creux harbour lights

That is because the Government of Sark, conscious of its duty to spend public money responsibly, shares the view expressed by the EPCC referred to above, and is presently of the view that any such levy would be unlawful and therefore unenforceable. The premises listed above are essential public services, and any attempt to interfere with the supply of electricity to them would put the health, safety and well-being of the people of Sark at risk.

You should note, for the avoidance of doubt, that because the government of Sark does not consider the imposition of these levies would be lawful, it follows that we do not consider that any step taken by SEL in consequence of their non-payment, including disconnection from the electricity supply and

the conversion of electricity meters to pre-paid meters, would be lawful either. Accordingly, SEL does not have the consent of Chief Pleas for any such step to be taken in respect of any of the premises referred to above. If any such step were to be taken or threatened or attempted, notwithstanding the clearly set out position in the foregoing, the Government of Sark reserves the right to take such further steps as it considers necessary at the time, including issuing legal proceedings, without further reference to SEL. Any attempt to enforce payment of these levies in court would be vigorously opposed.

Because of the significant public interest in this matter and the concern and distress the proposed imposition of these levies has caused on Sark within both the business community and the wider public, in the interests of transparency we have been asked by the Government of Sark to arrange for publication of this letter on the Chief Pleas website and elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

The Treasury Department of Chief Pleas