From:

Subject: SZC biodiversity and ecology issue specific hearing (ISH)

Date: 14 October 2021 17:39:31

Importance: High

Dear Sian,

Thank you for your time today. As we discussed on the call, Natural England's licensing team reiterate the comments made within section e on pp. 14-16 in our response to deadline 10 on Tuesday as follows:

"Natural England can confirm that all the draft species licences outlined by the Applicant have now been received.

We are still in the process of reviewing these and are therefore not in a position to provide any letters of no impediment (LoNIs) to the ExA at this time.

Until we have undertaken reviews in the necessary level of detail, we are unable to advise prior to examination close as to whether there is any fundamental reason why the relevant licences would not be granted."

We did make clear that the scheme should submit their licence applications for comment at the start of their determination period. However, we received these very late and at a time that our statutory work was at its peak, so have been unable to provide the substantial comments we wished to on each application.

As discussed on the phone today, we will be aim to review these in full by 11 November, and provide comment on what may need to be improved upon in order to satisfy a potential licence application. We understand that it will likely not be possible for PINS to take these comments into account during their examination, but would very much request that these are passed on to the Secretary of State when the time comes, as agreed via telephone conversation.

Thanks very much

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Hands, Face, Space, Fresh Air.

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