

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [new.ecase@beis.ecase.co.uk](mailto:new.ecase@beis.ecase.co.uk)  
**Subject:** FW: (Case Ref: AG03284)  
**Date:** 18 November 2024 16:13:36  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Minister.pdf](#)

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**From:** [REDACTED].mp@parliament.uk>  
**Sent:** 18 November 2024 16:09  
**To:** DESNZ Correspondence <correspondence@energysecurity.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** (Case Ref: AG03284)

Dear Secretary of State,

Please find attached a letter about Rampion 2 a wind farm off the shore of my constituency.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,  
Alison

**Alison Griffiths**  
Member of Parliament for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

[REDACTED] [@parliament.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.uk)  
[REDACTED]



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Edward Miliband MP  
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Our Ref: AG03284

18<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Ed,

I write concerning the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm proposal. I understand the Planning Inspectorate submitted their recommendation to you on November 6th. Before a final decision is made, I would appreciate the opportunity to meet you to share my concerns.

I proudly represent a coastal community, which is deeply committed to environmental stewardship. They experience firsthand the impacts of climate change: coastal floods from rising tides, summer droughts, and flash flooding that strains local infrastructure and destroys homes.

My constituents strongly support renewable energy, as evidenced by their support for the Rampion 1 wind farm. However, they expect careful consideration of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of new projects, and they have deep concerns about Rampion 2.

Below, I outline some key concerns with the Rampion 2 proposal.

### **Environmental Concerns**

Government Guidelines recommend that all new wind farms be in offshore waters (i.e. more than 14 miles from the shore) and that the larger turbines proposed be at least 25 miles offshore for low visible impact.

It is proposed that Rampion 2 would be sited only 8 miles from the shore, in almost wholly inshore waters. It is unprecedented on the UK Coastline for there to be turbines of such magnitude, so close to the shore. Furthermore, there is no other wind farm on the UK coastline which spans such a large proportion of the horizon (in operation, under construction, or with a planning application filed).

The turbine blades extend to the height of the Eiffel Tower, an impact exacerbated by their proximity to the shore. Their height poses risks to migratory birds, as evidenced by a recent French court decision on a similar wind farm. The proximity of the turbines to the kelp forest—a vital carbon sink praised by Sir David Attenborough—raises further concerns, as does the uncertain impact on this fragile ecosystem.

The proposed cabling route would run along the Climping Beach seabed, and across the South Downs, affecting sensitive habitats, including meadows, grasslands, hedgerows, and trees. Once these are lost, they cannot be restored. Moreover, we lack clear a understanding of their contribution to the biodiversity of the area, making mitigation challenging.

Sussex Wildlife Trust has emphasised that the project's high level of uncertainty makes it difficult to fully assess environmental impacts, a stance with which I strongly agree.

### **Social Impact**

The visibility of Rampion 2's turbines would be unprecedented along the UK coast. For residents who cherish unobstructed views of the South Downs National Park and shoreline, this project would detract from our area's natural beauty and character. Additionally, given plans for significant new housing, there's concern over the erosion of our coastline's unique identity, further amplifying resident dissatisfaction with rapid development in a confined area.

Local groups, including Protect Coastal Sussex, have voiced concerns about how Rampion 2 would restrict safe access to local kelp forests, a prized destination for divers seeking recreational and health benefits.

### **Economic Impact**

Arun District Council has raised concerns over the potential displacement of tourism to other areas as a result of Rampion 2, a scenario that could harm our primary economic driver. Similarly, Brighton and Hove City Council, while previously supportive of Rampion 1, has expressed apprehension over the lack of local economic benefits.

Furthermore, there is limited evidence of job creation from this project, and any negative effect on tourism could lead to job losses. It's worth noting that these same concerns contributed to the rejection of the Navitus Bay wind farm.

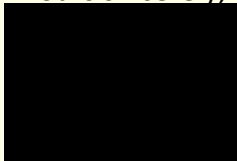
The constancy of the wind relative to other possible locations creates a serious economic concern. RWE states that the proposed 1,200 MW wind farm, Rampion 2, would power 1 million homes (based on an average annual domestic household electricity consumption of 3,618 kWh). This calculation shows that Rampion 2 is expected to have a similar capacity factor (34%) to Rampion 1.

There are three wind farms currently being built in Dogger Bank in the North Sea, each equivalent in size to Rampion 2 at 1,200MW. Each one will power 2 million Homes giving them a capacity factor of 69%. This is twice the efficiency of a wind farm in the Sussex bay. Given that Rampion 2 is intended as a national infrastructure project capable of powering one million homes, might an offshore location—such as Dogger Bank in the North Sea—provide a more effective economic and environmental solution?

I have listened to both sides of this issue. Ultimately, I believe this project risks serious harm to our community. As Arun District Council noted, our district stands to experience significant adverse impacts, without sufficient offsetting benefits.

In light of these serious concerns, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the potential impact of this decision on my constituency. Please could your team contact my office to arrange a suitable time?

Yours sincerely,



**Alison Griffiths**

*Member of Parliament for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton*