



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Teena Oulaghan
Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding Department
DIO Head Office
St George's House
DMS Whittington
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS14 9PY

Your Reference: EN010119

Tel: [REDACTED]

Our Reference: DIO10052359

Email: [REDACTED] [@mod.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk)

Wendy McKay
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

04 March 2025

By email only

Dear Wendy

Application by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ1) Issued on 4 February 2025

This letter is submitted in response to the Examining Authority's written questions which were issued on 4 February 2025. Responses are provided to those questions marked for the attention of the Ministry of Defence (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) only. The wording of those questions addressed to Ministry of Defence (MOD) have been used to structure this response.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the MOD as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, technical sites or maritime defence assets and interests.

Q4.1.2 – Aviation and Radar

(i) Provide here or in the SoCG, an up-to-date position with regards to negotiations between the Applicant and the DIO/MOD and whether any concern or issues remain to the Proposed Development with reference to ES Chapter 17 [APP-031]?

(ii) Has the applicant submitted a mitigation proposal to the DIO/MOD, but if not when will this likely happen? What is the likely timeframe in working towards this mitigation?

In responding to consultation on the application the MOD identified that, as well as the introduction of physical obstructions to low flying aircraft, the proposed onshore cable routing element of the scheme has the capacity to impact on the operation and capability of a statutorily safeguarded technical asset which is used to facilitate air traffic management (East 2 WAM Network).

No negotiations have taken place with the developer and no mitigation has been submitted. The MOD has now completed further assessments which indicate that, assuming that works involved to implement the onshore cable route would not exceed a height of 10m above ground level (the height specified by the applicant as a maximum for construction equipment/plant during implementation through an email to MOD dated provided in e:mail dated 25 November 2024), the MOD would have no objections or and have identified no need for any requirements relating to this element of the proposed development.

Q10.1.5 – Baseline data – ecology/noise

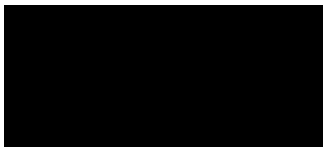
- (i) Are any existing acoustic deterrent devices in place for birds or other wildlife present in the vicinity of the DCO area, or which are otherwise relevant to mention to inform the accuracy of ES baseline conditions?**
- (ii) The ExA during its unaccompanied site visit noted what could be described as a noticeable high/low frequency noise/vibration/field ‘type’ emission from unknown source in proximity to existing the coastline communication infrastructure opposite the existing wind turbine arrays and proposed dDCO array location. In light of the ExA’s observation: -**
 - a) Would potential alteration to the baseline noise/vibration/environmental conditions as described as experienced in the locality during the site visit have any implication to species movements, irrespective of the Scheme applied for?**
 - b) The applicant is requested to make all updates or provide additional environmental information as necessary.**

The MOD has no comment to offer on this issue.

I trust this adequately explains the MOD position in response to relevant questions within the Examining Authority’s written questions issued 4 February 2025.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information, or should you wish to discuss matters.

Yours sincerely



Safeguarding Manager