

Please see below The Crown Estate's response to question ExQ1 100I6 from the Examining Authority's written questions on Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets - issued on 18th December 2024.

Question 100I6: The Crown Estate Round 4 Separation Criteria:

Can The Crown Estate advise upon what basis/reason the 7.5km separation distance is used when identifying potential sites? For example, does this distance consider potential for wake effects/reductions in energy output to other offshore wind farms or is this based upon some other consideration? Can The Crown Estate please comment and explain.

We reiterate our clarification on the separation distance below, previously provided in response to similar questions asked in other recent/ongoing Examinations.

- The buffer/stand-off between wind farms (unless developers consent to closer proximity) is a separation distance to enable developers to develop, operate and maintain wind farms by allowing for a range of factors including amongst other matters, wake effects, navigation, and safety.
- The 2019 Information Memorandum ahead of Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 set out the requirement that “Projects may not be located within 7.5 km of an existing offshore wind farm (meaning a wind farm at any stage of development which has been awarded an agreement for lease or lease from The Crown Estate) unless the owner of the existing offshore wind farm has given its written consent”.
- This 7.5km was used for the purpose of processing project proposals in the tender only, being higher than the 5km buffers that are specified within the seabed lease agreements (introduced in Round 3); this was for the purpose of de-risking the Round 4 tender by providing additional mitigation and assurance to participants through limiting proximity.
- The Crown Estate acknowledges that inter-farm wake effects can extend beyond these buffer distances. TCE also notes that the spatial and temporal variability of wind speed means that it is complex to accurately predict the wake impact on nearby wind farms, which may depend upon factors beyond distance – e.g. prevailing wind direction and wind farm layout.
- The location of a wind farm within an area of seabed leased from The Crown Estate is for developers to decide and design for, subject to obtaining the necessary consents and The Crown Estate’s approval.