



# Planning Inspectorate

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The Applicants,  
Albanwise Ltd,  
Albanwise Synergy Ltd,  
Cefas,  
Civil Aviation Authority,  
The Environment Agency,  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council,  
East Yorkshire Concrete Products  
Limited and Mr Alexander Douglas  
Robinson,  
Historic England,  
Hull City Council,  
Marine Management Organisation,  
National Federation of Fishermen's  
Organisations,  
National Gas Transmissions Ltd,  
National Grid Electricity Transmissions  
Plc,  
Natural England,  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,  
Trinity House,  
Ulllyotts (Rural) Limited on behalf of J L  
White & Son and Butt Farm Caravan,  
Camping & Glamping Site,  
UK Chamber of Shipping,  
UK Major Ports Group,  
Yorkshire Water

Your Ref: -

Our Ref: EN010125

Date: 15 April 2025

Dear Sir/ Madam,

## **The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 17**

### **Application by RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms Request for further information**

The Examining Authority (ExA) is writing under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended).

## Environmental Statement (ES)

At the hearings in January, the applicants advised that it was not their intention to update individual chapters of the ES submitted with the application on the basis that this would be an extremely time-consuming task and would introduce unnecessary complexity and uncertainty without providing clear benefit to the examination. Instead, any amendments or changes to the ES would be managed via the submission of additional documents, specific updates and appendices which could be tracked through the guide to the application and would be secured through the certification of documents via Schedule 19 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO).

Whilst the ExA accepted this approach, since then the applicants have submitted a significant number of documents and updates into the examination and the ExA has also accepted two change requests. The ExA has therefore reviewed this approach and consider that it is no longer appropriate.

The ExA therefore request that the applicants review and update the ES, as a whole, before the close of the examination so that the ES accurately reflects the proposed development and contains all the updated information within the relevant chapter, which the ExA will need to report on, and the Secretary of State will need to consider.

In the interests of fairness, the ExA consider that this should be done for Deadline 7, 26 June 2025. This would then enable the ExA and other interested parties (IPs) the opportunity to review and comment on the updated documents and for the applicants to respond to this within the remaining deadlines of the examination.

The ExA consider that by issuing this request now, the applicants will have sufficient time to ensure that they have the resources in place to undertake this work.

### Timely submission of documents

As set out in the Rule 6 letter [PD-010] and at the preliminary meetings [EV2-007] and [EV6-003], the examination timetable includes a series of numbered deadlines for receipt of written submissions and the ExA requested that submissions should be made in accordance with these deadlines.

However, since commencement of the examination, it is clear to the ExA that this is not happening. The ExA therefore has concerns that if this practice continues, it could lead to matters being unresolved at the close of the examination, which may require the examination to be extended or could cause delay to the Secretary of State's decision whilst they seek to resolve outstanding matters post reporting.

Whilst the ExA recognise the pressures on the applicants and IPs, the ExA is also under an obligation to examine this proposal within the allocated 6-month time frame. The ExA therefore want to reiterate the importance of submitting documents and other responses in a timely manner, to the agreed deadlines. Documents received after the relevant deadlines are **only** accepted at the discretion of the ExA. To date, the ExA has accepted these submissions however, as the end of the examination gets closer, future late submissions may not be accepted to ensure fairness to all parties.

The ExA wishes to highlight that where documents are submitted late without good reason, causing inconvenience or delay to other parties, this could amount to unreasonable behaviour and may result in the ExA considering the award of costs.

## Future Attendance at hearings

Whilst the examination of the proposed development is a predominantly written process, hearings provide an important opportunity for the ExA to explore matters orally. This often enables the ExA to consider complex matters more efficiently. However, for this to be successful it is important that all the relevant parties attend the hearings.

Following disappointing attendance at both the hearings in January and in April, the ExA is therefore taking this opportunity to highlight that the examination timetable allows for a further set of hearings, if required, during the week commencing 2 June 2025.

The applicants and all relevant IPs are requested to ensure that they are aware of these dates so that they can ensure that they and their representatives are available to attend if requested. The ExA will confirm whether these hearings are required as soon as they are able to do so, but this will be predicated on the information submitted at Deadline 4.

## Responding to action points

At the hearings held last week there were a number of action points arising for IPs who did not attend the hearings. As a result, if you are one of the IPs to whom this letter has been sent, can you check the table below and for completeness the action points for Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) 2 [\[EV7-002\]](#), Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) 3 [\[EV8-010\]](#), ISH4 [\[EV9-002\]](#) and ISH5 [\[EV10-002\]](#) and respond to those that are relevant to you. Unless otherwise stated, responses are due to be submitted at Deadline 4 (25 April 2025).

Action point	Responder
<b>CAH2</b>	
10	National Gas Transmissions Ltd National Grid Electricity Transmissions Plc Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Ltd
<b>ISH3</b>	
5	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
<b>ISH4</b>	
31 and 32	Historic England
<b>ISH5</b>	
1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 53 and 57	Natural England
5, 14, 19, 22 and 23	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
23, 26, 45, 47, 48, 49 and 53	The Marine Management Organisation
26	Cefas

## Responding to the ExA's written questions (ExQ1)

On 28 February 2025 the ExA issued ExQ1 [\[PD-014\]](#). The deadline for submission of responses was Deadline 3, 19 March 2025. However, the ExA is still awaiting responses to a number of these questions. IPs are requested to check that they have responded to any questions that were asked of them. The ExA is aware that the following questions remain unanswered:

Question	Responder
BGC.1.1 and BGC.1.6 AQ.1.1, AQ.1.3, AQ.1.12 and AQ.1.14 DCO.1.3 and DCO.1.7 GD.1.10 TT.1.3, TT.1.4, TT.1.9, TT.1.12 and TT.1.13	Hull City Council
ARMC.1.1 and ARMC.1.2	Civil Aviation Authority
ARMC.1.1	Trinity House
SN.1.2 and SN.1.6	UK Chamber of Shipping
SN.1.2	UK Major Ports Group
GGC.1.3, GGC.1.6 and HF.1.12	The Environment Agency
HF.1.8	Yorkshire Water
HF.1.12	East Riding of Yorkshire in their role as lead local flood authority
LUA1.6 and LUA.1.9	Albanwise Ltd, Albanwise Synergy Ltd and Ulllyotts (Rural) Limited on behalf of J L White & Son and Butt Farm Caravan, Camping & Glamping Site and any other Interested Parties
LUA.1.9	East Yorkshire Concrete Products Limited and Mr Alexander Douglas Robinson and any other affected party

## Action point 16 from CAH2

Action point 16 from CAH2 was for the ExA to provide the applicants with examples of other funding statements which provided a more detailed breakdown of the overall scheme delivery costs. As set out at CAH2 the ExA accepts, in addition to concerns regarding commercial confidentiality, that at this stage in the project it would be unrealistic to ask for a detailed breakdown of project costs. However, as set out at the hearing, the ExA needs to have some further detail behind how the estimated £7 billion project costs were calculated. The ExA would therefore direct the applicants to look at Table 1 in the Portishead Funding Statement [\[APP-056\]](#) or Table 3 in the London Luton Airport Funding Statement [\[REP5-009\]](#) as examples of the level of detail being sought. As discussed at CAH2 these could be provided as percentages of the overall cost.

Alternatively, if after reviewing these statements the applicants still consider that they are unable to provide the information requested, as discussed at CAH2 they could provide a table setting out the total project cost for other offshore wind farms that they have developed, adjusted for inflation, to reassure the ExA that the projected costs for the proposed development are realistic.

Unless otherwise stated, responses should be submitted on or before **Deadline 4 (25 April 2025)**.

Other IPs may also wish to respond to this request.

Yours faithfully

*Jo Dowling*

**Jo Dowling**  
**Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors**

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