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**Your ref:** EN010125  
**Our ref:** MRFOD003  
**Date:** 20 November 2025

Dear John

**Defra Response to DESNZ Request for Information: “Application by RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms (“the Proposed Development”)”**

Thank you for your letter of 6 November 2025, in which you requested Defra to:

Paragraph 12: Provide an update on any progress that has been made by the Isles of Scilly Task and Finish Group on the collaborative approach to Guillemot and Razorbill compensation in the Isles of Scilly, particularly in relation to the quantification of the compensation that is due to be created.

Paragraph 19: Noting the Written Ministerial Statement of 29 January 2025 which commits to designating / extending Marine Protected Areas (“MPAs”) to compensate for likely environmental effects of offshore wind developments which include projects that received a seabed lease from The Crown Estate under Leasing Round 4, and in the context of the interim guidance prior to the implementation of the Marine Recovery Fund (“MRF”), Defra is invited to advise whether the Proposed Development and its impacts are of a type which could in-principle be compensated by the MPA measure delivered through the MRF. This is the Applicants’ preferred approach to compensation for Annex 1 Sandbank habitat, as outlined in their Project Level Dogger Bank Compensation Plan (Revision 5).

**Update on the collaborative approach to Guillemot and Razorbill compensation in the Isles of Scilly, in particular on quantification**

The collaborative approach to seabird strategic compensation in the Isles of Scilly is being considered by the Strategic Predator Reduction Task and Finish Group. The aim of the task and finish group is to provide necessary arrangements to enable predator reduction to be implemented, preferably through the Marine Recovery Fund, as strategic compensation. This includes seeking to quantify the amount of seabird compensation that predator eradication on the Isles of Scilly should secure.

The Strategic Predator Reduction Task and Finish group has tasked Natural England with reviewing relevant seabird and habitat surveys to establish a projected compensation outcome for seabird species on the Isles of Scilly. It will then consult with experts, including the Isles of Scilly Seabird Partnership Group, and their final analysis will be considered by the Strategic Predator Reduction Task and Finish Group.

The quantification work will include projected compensation values for both guillemot and razorbill. It is expected to conclude by the end of December 2025.

**Whether the Proposed Development and its impacts could be compensated by the MPA measures through the MRF**

As confirmed in the Written Ministerial Statement HCWS394, and the interim guidance published in January 2025, Defra committed to designating new MPAs and/or extending existing MPAs in Secretary of State waters to deliver sufficient strategic compensation to compensate for likely benthic environmental effects of offshore wind development. These also outlined specific eligibility criteria that new offshore wind developments would need to meet.

Based on the information available, we understand that the Dogger Bank South offshore windfarm project will impact benthic habitat and could be eligible for the compensation we are proposing to make available via compensatory MPAs. This would be verified upon application to the MRF through the supporting documentation provided at the time.

Yours sincerely

**Amy Ferguson**

Programme Director, Marine Recovery Fund  
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs