

Secretary of State for Energy Security and
Net Zero

55 Whitehall
London
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Our reference 006463962-01

Your reference EN010125

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05 December 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

DBS East and DBS West Offshore Wind Farms ('the Projects')

PINS Reference: EN010125

Request for Information response

The Applicants are pleased to respond to the Secretary of State's Request for Information issued on 6 November 2025. This response comprises answers to questions in **22.2 The Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request For Information**, supported by updates to documents and new documents, as detailed in this letter. A full list of material provided is set out in Appendix A of this letter.

Crown Consent

The Applicants are pleased to confirm that Crown Consent has been obtained, as evidenced in **22.4 The Crown Estate's Letter of Consent**.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Applicants have continued negotiations with Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body and have reached further consensus on compensation proposals. **22.7 Kittiwake Compensation and Artificial Nesting Structure Update** and **22.8 Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Update** were both provided to Natural England for discussion to assist with this, resulting in updates to the following documents:

- **6.2.1 Appendix 1 - Project Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan (Revision 8)**
- **6.2.1.2 Outline Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Revision 4)**
- **6.2.2 Appendix 2 - Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan (Revision 8)**
- **6.2.2.1 Annex A - Outline Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Revision 4)**

Whilst the Applicants have tried to engage directly with NatureScot for a number of months, to discuss the development of the project-led auk compensation options in Scotland in further detail, it has not been possible to meet since the meeting of 3 October 2025. The Applicants received a copy of NatureScot's letter to the Secretary of State of 2 December 2025. A response to the points raised is provided at **22.5 The Applicants' Response to NatureScot's DESNZ letter**.

The Applicants have also produced **22.3 The Applicants' Position on Compliance with Legal and Policy Requirements for Compensatory Measures** to support the Applicants' position that compensation measures for the Projects are suitably progressed to permit a timely DCO Approval.

As requested by the Secretary of State, the Applicants have updated **8.6 Commitments Register (Revision 5)**, **8.20 Cable Statement (Revision 6)** and **8.23 In-Principle Monitoring Plan (Revision 7)**.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Applicants and Marine Management Organisation (MMO) have provided an update to their Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) [REP9-013] on the topic of fish and shellfish at **22.6 MMO SoCG Update**. This records new agreement in relation to the methodology in **7.10.10.3 Appendix 10-3 Back-calculation of the Peak Atlantic Herring Spawning Period (Revision 3)**.

Air Defence Radar

The Applicants have sought the opinion of the Ministry of Defence on the wording proposed by the Secretary of State in your letter dated 6 November 2025. The Applicant has received a copy of the letter sent from the Ministry of Defence to DESNZ on 3rd December 2025 (Ministry of Defence reference DIO10053433) which confirms the Ministry of Defence considers the draft DCO wording agreed previously with the Applicant is appropriate and restrictions on the erection of any part of the wind turbine generators within Work No. 1B is not considered necessary. Following this, both parties confirm their proposed Requirement wording within the Order and strong preference for no change to this agreed wording.

Wake Effects

The Applicants' response is contained within our main document, **22.2 The Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request For Information**.

Land Rights

The Applicants have provided a new update to **10.4 Land Rights Tracker (Revision 10)**. This shows further progress in obtaining land rights by negotiation.

Agreement on protective provisions with Network Rail has been reached, which is now reflected in a revision of **9.14 Network Rail SoCG (Revision 4)**. The Applicants anticipate that Network Rail will now withdraw their objection.

Agreement has also been reached with Northern PowerGrid that the existing protective provisions in the draft DCO meet their needs; confirmation that their objection is withdrawn is included in **22.9 Northern PowerGrid's Objection withdrawal letter**.

Draft Development Consent (DCO) Order

To accommodate the changes arising from the agreements discussed above, a new revision of **3.1 Draft DCO (Revision 13)** is provided, alongside **3.2 Explanatory Memorandum (Revision 12)**. To aid navigation the Applicants have also updated **3.4 Schedule of Changes to dDCO (To Revision 13) (Revision 11)**.

Conclusion

The Applicants are happy to respond fully to this Request for Information, having shared and agreed positions with regulators prior to submission. This should obviate the need for further consultation, allowing the Secretary of State to determine the application in January to prevent further delays to those already encountered in the pre-application period.

A timely grant of this DCO will permit the Applicants to install 3GW of clean power, addressing the need and urgency expressed in government energy and planning policies.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Tremlett
Senior Consents Manager
DBS Offshore Wind Farms

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Appendix A

Table 1 List of updated Examination documents (clean and tracked).

Reference	Document Name
3.1	Draft Development Consent Order (Revision 13)
3.2	Explanatory Memorandum (Revision 12)
3.4	Schedule of Changes to dDCO (To Revision 13) (Revision 11)
6.2.1	Appendix 1 - Project Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan (Revision 8)
6.2.1.2	Outline Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Revision 4)
6.2.2	Appendix 2 - Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan (Revision 8)
6.2.2.1	Annex A - Outline Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Revision 4)
7.10.10.3	Appendix 10-3 Back-calculation of the Peak Atlantic Herring Spawning Period (Revision 3)
8.6	Commitments Register (Revision 5)
8.20	Cable Statement (Revision 6)
8.23	In-Principle Monitoring Plan (Revision 7)
9.14	Network Rail Statement of Common Ground (Revision 4)
10.4	Land Rights Tracker (Revision 10)

Table 1 List of new documents.

Reference	Document Name
22.1	Secretary of State Request For Information Cover Letter (this document)
22.2	The Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request For Information
22.3	The Applicants' Position on Compliance with Legal and Policy Requirements for Compensatory Measures
22.4	The Crown Estate's Letter of Consent
22.5	The Applicants' Response to NatureScot's DESNZ letter
22.6	Marine Management Organisation Statement of Common Ground Update
22.7	Kittiwake Compensation and Artificial Nesting Structure Update
22.8	Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Update
22.9	Northern PowerGrid's Objection Withdrawal Letter