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John Wheadon
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Your ref: EN010125
Our ref: MRFDBS02
Date: 26 January 2026

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 16 January 2026, in which you requested Defra to:

Paragraph 9: On 19th December 2025 the Secretary of State received a further response from the Applicant, outlining that they had met with Defra in regard to using the Marine Recovery Fund (“MRF”) for ornithological compensation in relation to predator eradication schemes on the Isles of Scilly, and that this route may be available within Q1 of 2026 following the legislation coming into force in December 2025. Noting this, the Secretary of State invites Defra to provide a final update on when ornithological measures delivered via the MRF will become available within the coming months.

Update on ornithological measures delivered via the MRF on the Isles of Scilly

Defra has funded the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts to deliver a fully costed implementation plan for predator eradication on the Isles of Scilly. Officials are now working with the Duchy of Cornwall (the Duchy) to secure delivery of this measure. The Duchy has written to the DESNZ Secretary of State confirming its intention to deliver predator reduction for seabird compensation on the Isles of Scilly, and that we are jointly exploring whether the compensation could be made available to offshore wind applicants through the Marine Recovery Fund.

Natural England has completed its assessment of the projected seabird compensation benefits of predator eradication on the Isles of Scilly. This was reviewed by the strategic predator reduction task and finish group which included DESNZ representation. The report titled 'Isles of Scilly – Estimated Rates of Seabird Recovery following Brown Rat Removal' has been published on the Planning Inspectorate website, at this link - [EN010125-002567-C1-026 - Defra - IoS eradication - quantification of benefit v3 FINAL 1225.pdf](#)

Yours sincerely

Amy Ferguson

Programme Director, Marine Recovery Fund
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