



Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net
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Our reference 006591727-01
Your reference EN010125
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30 January 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

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

PINS Reference: EN010125

Second Request for Information response

The Applicants are disappointed that the Secretary of State considered it necessary to delay the decision of this application by fifteen weeks. This results in a decision period longer than the Examination itself, and more than double the statutory time limit set by s107(1) of the Planning Act 2008. As the Secretary of State will be aware, this application has already been subject to a twelve-week delay caused by the Examining Authority. Taken together, cumulative consenting delays of over six months place increasing pressure on the Projects' ability to contribute to the Government's target of energisation in 2030.

The Applicants recognise the importance of ensuring that the Secretary of State has all necessary information to reach a fully informed decision. In that context, and in order to assist the Secretary of State come to a timely decision as efficiently as possible, the Applicants are responding fully and comprehensively to the second Request for Information issued on 16 January 2026. This response comprises detailed answers to each question set out in **23.2 The Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Second Request for Information**, supported by updates as detailed further in this letter.

The Applicants note that the matters raised in the second Request for Information follow an extensive Examination process, the submission of the Examining Authority's Report, and the Secretary of State's first Request for Information (6 November 2025). In light of this, and significant amount of time that has passed since the response to the first Request for Information (7 weeks), the Applicants trust that the questions posed in the second Request for Information represent the full extent of clarification required in order to enable the Secretary of State to reach a decision. The Applicants, consistent with their approach to all Examination and post-Examination procedural requests, have sought to respond transparently and exhaustively to each point raised, with the intention of supporting a timely determination and avoiding the need for any further rounds of clarification.



The Applicants further note that the post-Examination stage of the Planning Act process is intended to support decision-making, rather than to reopen matters that have already been tested through Examination. The information now before the Secretary of State, including the Examining Authority's Report and the Applicants' and other stakeholder's responses to two Requests for Information, provides a robust and comprehensive basis upon which the application can be determined.

Wake Effects

The Applicants' response is contained within **23.3 The Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information on Wake Effects**, which includes the appendix **DBS Design Evolution Considering the Impact of Inter-Farm Wake Effects**.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Applicants are pleased to have secured two further Letters of Comfort from landowners in relation to the sites selected to provide compensatory habitat for breeding guillemot and (without prejudice) razorbill. The land covered by the three Letter of Comfort received to date would provide sufficient nesting space to satisfy Natural England's preferred compensation requirement for both guillemot and razorbill (in terms of both success criteria and scaling requirement). The Applicants continue to maintain that Natural England's approach is over precautionary in terms of the numbers required to compensate for the Projects' impacts, however the letters provided by landowners should give the Secretary of State comfort that compensation to Natural England's requested quantum can be secured. These letters are appended to an updated **6.2.2 Appendix 2 - Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan (Revision 9)**. For completeness, this document has also been updated in light of the launch of the Marine Recovery Fund and Defra's submission of Natural England's Isles of Scilly quantification report.

Draft Development Consent (DCO) Order

The Applicants welcome the Secretary of State's review of the draft DCO. Having considered the proposed amendments to the Deemed Marine Licenses, alternative wording has been provided without prejudice in **23.2 The Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Second Request For Information**. The Applicants have pre-emptively shared their draft responses on these matters with the Marine Management Organisation ahead of the Requestion for Information 2 response deadline in expectation of resolving these matters swiftly.

Land Rights

As requested, the Applicants have provided a new update to **10.4 Land Rights Tracker (Revision 11)**. This shows further progress in obtaining three additional option agreements by negotiation. The Applicants have now agreed Heads of Terms covering over 70% of Category 1 parties and legally completed Options with 40%.

Conclusion

The Applicants urge the Secretary of State to make a timely decision on this application. Contracts for Difference have recently been awarded to both Dogger Bank South Projects, demonstrating their deliverability, affordability and alignment with Government energy policy. Continued delay to the Development Consent decision and the uncertainty which this causes constrains the Applicants' ability to plan ahead and hinders efficient project delivery.

The Applicants wish to invest in the installation of 3GW of clean, renewable electricity, in accordance with national energy and planning policy, but prolonged uncertainty in the consenting timetable introduces avoidable risk to programme delivery, supply chain mobilisation and the timely deployment of low-carbon infrastructure. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Secretary of State determines the application as soon as practicable to avoid further delay to the delivery of these nationally significant benefits.

Yours sincerely,



Colin McAllister
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DBS Offshore Wind Farms

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