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14/10/2026

Dear [REDACTED],

## **PLANNING ACT 2008**

### **THE DOGGER BANK SOUTH OFFSHORE WIND FARMS ORDER 2026 (“the Order”)**

#### **APPROVAL OF THE KITTIWAKE COMPENSATION STEERING GROUP PLAN OF WORK**

1. The Order contains several requirements and conditions, including in respect of relevant plans of work, that the undertaker must comply with before relevant works on the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms (“the authorised development”) as defined in the Order can commence.
2. RWE Renewables UK (“the Applicant”) made a request to the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero (“the Secretary of State”) on 15 July 2026 for approval of the Kittiwake Compensation Steering Group (“KCSG”) Plan of Work (“the Approval Request”).
3. The Approval Request is submitted to the Secretary of State under paragraph 7 of Part 2 of Schedule 18 to the Order.

#### **Schedule 18 ‘Compensation Measures’**

4. Paragraph 7 of Part 2 of Schedule 18 to the Order states that:

*Where the undertaker elects to submit a kittiwake CIMP under paragraph 5(1)(b) or paragraph 5(1)(c) Work No. 1A and 1B may not commence commercial operation until a plan for the work of the KCSG has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State. Such plan must include—*

- (a) terms of reference of the KCSG;*
- (b) details of the membership of the KCSG which must include the relevant statutory nature conservation body and, where appropriate and the MMO as core members;*
- (c) details of the proposed schedule of meetings, timetable for preparation of the Kittiwake CIMP and reporting and review periods; and*

*(d) the dispute resolution mechanism.*

## **The Approval Request**

5. The Applicant has, in accordance with the requirements set out above, provided a Plan of Work (“the Plan”) for the KCSG that provides the information required under paragraph 7 of Part 2 of Schedule 18 to the Order. The Applicant has prepared the Plan following consultation with the members of the KCSG.
6. Pursuant to paragraph 5(1)(c) of Schedule 18 to the Order, the Applicant has additionally confirmed that their route to compensation will be the submission of a Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring plan (“CIMP”) for approval.

## **Consideration of the Approval Request**

7. The Secretary of State has considered the Approval Request and the details provided by the Applicant in the Plan in respect of the requirements detailed above.

## *Terms of reference*

8. Section 8 of the Plan describes the purpose of the KCSG and appropriate terms of reference for the KCSG. Parties responsible for each action are identified including the role of the Chair. Details of how the review process of the CIMP will be undertaken are set out, as well as a process for considering design information that may need to be reviewed outside of the planned review cycle where rapid responses are required.

## *Membership of the KCSG*

9. Section 3 of the Plan describes the relevant core members as the Applicant, Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Secondary members may also be invited by the Developers, such as technical experts or advisory bodies. Primary members will be notified if a Secondary member is to attend ahead of the meeting. Secondary members attendance at steering group meetings will be by invitation only and they will be provided minutes of the meeting, subject to confidentiality clauses. The Secretary of State notes that paragraph 6, Section 1 of the Plan sets out that the Applicant will consult all members of the KCSG to seek alignment on the Plan before its submission to the Secretary of State.

## *Schedule of meetings, Reporting and Review Periods*

10. Section 4 of the Plan states that the KCSG shall meet and the Kittiwake CIMP shall be prepared in accordance with the timetable in the Engagement Plan (Appendix B). It also states that the Applicant shall engage with the KCSG and the KCSG shall review the CIMP in accordance with the Engagement Plan. The Engagement Plan details the predicted timing of engagement with the KCSG at each stage, including up to the anticipated submission of the CIMP to the Secretary of State. Review periods will be set when information is issued but will be no less than 10 working days. The Secretary of State welcomes the Applicant’s acknowledgement that the availability of stakeholders is likely to be limited and that the Applicant will endeavour to accommodate meeting

attendance for all KCSG members, with meeting minutes shared for those unable to attend.

#### *Dispute resolution mechanism*

11. Section 5 of the Plan describes an appropriate dispute resolution mechanism, including an escalation hierarchy and mediation procedures. It is detailed that the dispute resolution process should not be triggered due to differences in technical opinion.

#### *Other matters*

12. The Plan of Works includes details on other matters not specified in the Order, but which the Secretary of State notes as covering travel and administrative costs, arrangements to uphold confidentiality (Section 7) and Steering Group Principles (Section 9).
13. Having considered the details provided by the Applicant in respect of the requirements related to the submission of the Plan for the KCSG, the Secretary of State considers that the Plan proposes an effective process which enables the KCSG to fulfil its intended consultative role in the delivery of kittiwake compensatory measures and is satisfied that the Approval Request and the Plan provide the information required.
14. The Secretary of State approves the Plan submitted with the Approval Request in accordance with paragraph 7 of Part 2 of Schedule 18 to the Order.

Yours sincerely,

  
Environmental Assessment Team Leader  
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero