

The Crown Estate

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National Infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate
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09/04/2025

AND BY EMAIL: OuterDowsingOffshoreWind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by GT R4 Limited (T/A Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) ("the Applicant") for an Order Granting Development Consent for The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm Order

I write further to the above.

In this letter:

"the book of reference" shall have the meaning given to it in the Order;

"the Commissioners" shall mean the Crown Estate Commissioners;

"Draft DCO" shall mean the Applicant's draft development consent order (reference REP5-002, revision 9 and dated March 2025);

"Order" shall mean The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm Order 202[.] once made by the Secretary of State;

"TCE Plots" shall mean plots 01-001, 01-002, 19-006, 19-007, 22-001, 22-004, 22-006, 23-013, 23-014, 34-005, 34-006, 37-012, 38-001, 38-003, 45-001, 45-002, 45-003, 45-005, 45-006, 45-008, 45-009, 45-013, 45-014, 45-015, 45-016, 45-030, 45-033, 46-003, 46-004, 46-005, 46-006; and

"Assumed TCE Plots" shall mean plots 19-004, 19-008, 19-009, 22-002, 22-005, 22-007, 23-015, 34-004, 37-011, 38-002, 38-004, 38-005, 38-006, 45-004, 45-007, 45-010, 45-011, 45-012, 45-017, 45-018, 45-029, 45-031, 45-034, 45-043, 45-044, 45-047, 46-001, 46-002, 46-007 to the extent that these form part of The Crown Estate.

As you are aware, the Commissioners disagree with any view that section 135(1) of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") provides that any provision authorising the acquisition of third party interests in Crown land may only be included in a development consent order if the unconditional consent of the appropriate Crown body to the acquisition is obtained before the development consent order is made.

However, and without prejudice to the Commissioners' position set out in the preceding paragraph, the Commissioners have reached a separate agreement with the Applicant which provides the Commissioners with sufficient assurance as to the way in which compulsory acquisition powers (as contained in Articles 20 and 22 of the Draft DCO) may be exercised in respect of third party interests in Crown land forming part of the Crown Estate. As such, and subject to the below, the Commissioners confirm their consent to the compulsory acquisition of the third party interests in the TCE Plots and the Assumed TCE Plots (to the extent that each of the Assumed TCE Plots form part of The Crown Estate) for the purpose of section 135(1) of the Act.

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The Commissioners' consent is granted subject to:

1. the inclusion and continuing application of the "Crown rights" wording in the Order at Article 44:

"44.— (1) Nothing in this Order affects prejudicially any estate, right, power, privilege, authority or exemption of the Crown and in particular, nothing in this Order authorises the undertaker or any lessee or licensee to take, use, enter on or in any manner interfere with any land or rights of any description (including any portion of the shore or bed of the sea or any river, channel, creek, bay or estuary)—

- (a) belonging to His Majesty in right of the Crown and forming part of The Crown Estate without the consent in writing of the Crown Estate Commissioners;*
- (b) belonging to His Majesty in right of the Crown and not forming part of The Crown Estate without the consent in writing of the government department having the management of that land; or*
- (c) belonging to a government department or held in trust for His Majesty for the purposes of a government department without the consent in writing of that government department.*

(2) Paragraph(1) does not apply to the exercise of any right under this Order for the compulsory acquisition of an interest in any Crown land (as defined in the 2008 Act(a)) which is for the time being held otherwise than by or on behalf of the Crown.

(3) A consent under paragraph (1) may be given unconditionally or subject to terms and conditions; and is deemed to have been given in writing where it is sent electronically."

and;

2. the Commissioners being consulted further if any variation to the Draft DCO is proposed which could affect any other provisions of the Order which are subject to section 135(1) and 135(2) of the Act.

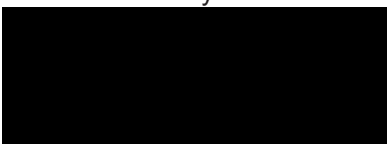
Section 135(2) consent is required for an order granting development consent to include provision(s) to apply to Crown land or rights benefiting the Crown (other than provision(s) authorising the compulsory acquisition of third-party interests in Crown land). The Commissioners disagree with any view that section 135(2) consent is required in relation to offshore Crown land because and on the basis that an agreement for lease will be entered into in relation to such land.

However, and without prejudice to the Commissioners' position, subject to:

- 1. the inclusion of Article 44 in the Order as referred to above and its continuing application; and
- 2. the Commissioners being consulted further if any variation to the Draft DCO is proposed which could affect any other provisions of the Order which are subject to section 135(1) and 135(2) of the Act

the Commissioners confirm their consent to Articles 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 44 of the Draft DCO, to the extent that they are included in the Order, applying in relation to the TCE Plots and the Assumed TCE Plots (to the extent that each of the Assumed TCE Plots form part of The Crown Estate) for the purpose of section 135(2) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



9/04/2025

Senior Legal Counsel
For and on behalf of the Crown Estate Commissioners