

To:

All Interested Parties

Ref: EN010147

4 September 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Application by PhotoVolt Development Partners (PVDP) on behalf of SolarFive Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Botley West Solar Farm (“the Botley West Solar Farm”)**

**ALL INTERESTED PARTIES – INVITATION TO COMMENT**

1. The Secretary of State has received a late response from the Applicant to the request for further information (“RFI”) letter dated 14 April 2026 (re-issued 20 April and 28 April). The response arrived well after the prescribed deadline but since it is understood to contain potentially relevant information, she has exercised her discretion to accept this late submission.
2. The Secretary of State is disappointed that this information was not provided by the specified deadline. When further information is required by the Secretary of State during the decision stage, deadlines are set and should be complied with to enable the efficient determination of applications, which have already been through a thorough examination stage prior to this decision stage.
3. The Secretary of State must ensure that the Application continues to be determined in accordance with legal requirements. The need for this consultation – and consequent further extension to the deadline for the decision - arises as a direct consequence of the Applicant’s late submission.
4. The Secretary of State expects the Applicant to have regard to specified deadlines and does not expect any further substantive information to be submitted in response to the RFI which concluded on 9 June 2026. **Accordingly, any further unsolicited submissions from the Applicant should not be made and should not be assumed to form part of the material that the Secretary of State will take into account in reaching her decision.**

5. The Secretary of State now invites all **Interested Parties** to comment on the response provided by the Applicant which has been published on the Botley West Solar Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010147>.

#### **DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE**

6. Any comments should be submitted **by 23:59 on 4 October 2026**, by email only to: [BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk).
7. Responses will be published on the Botley West Solar Farm page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 4 October 2026.
8. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Botley West Solar Farm or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

Ben Million

Head of Planning

Department of Energy Security & Net Zero