



To:
Frodsham Solar Limited,
The Crown Estate

Our Ref: EN010153

30 September 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Application by Frodsham Solar Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Frodsham Solar (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 30 April 2026, the Examining Authority (“ExA”) submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 29 July 2026. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. The Secretary of State issued a letter requesting further information on 25 August 2026 (“the first information request”). The responses were published on the Frodsham Solar project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website on 14 September 2026.¹
3. There are further issues on which the Secretary of State requests **the Applicant** and **the Crown Estate** to provide updates or information as appropriate.

Crown Consent

4. The Secretary of State notes from the Applicant’s response to the first information request dated 8 September 2026, that the Applicant and the Crown Estate have reached agreement and were in the process of executing the necessary contractual documents, with the s 135 consent letter expected to be issued by the Crown Estate imminently.

¹ <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010153/documents?stage-decision=Secretary%20of%20State%20Consultation%201&itemsPerPage=25>

5. **The Crown Estate** are requested to provide the s 135 consent letter at the earliest opportunity and by **23:59 on 14 October 2026 at the latest**.

Inovyn Chlorovinyls Limited (ICL)

6. The Secretary of State notes that the Applicant and ICL made several representations on the case for compulsory acquisition of ICL's land (plots 5-3 and 5-4) during the Examination. Without prejudice to the Secretary of State's final decision on this matter, the **Applicant** is requested to provide:
 - a. amended Land and Crown Land plans showing plots 5-3 and 5-4 shaded in blue (instead of pink); and
 - b. an amended Book of Reference, which provides that for plots 5-3 and 5-4, the interest acquired will be "permanent acquisition of new rights" over the extent of land so described for plots 5-3 and 5-4, and the category of rights required for these plots is "SPEN connection (above ground) cable rights".

Joan Margaret Nicholas and Mark Avis-Ainsworth

7. In her response dated 7 September 2026 to the first information request, Joan Margaret Nicholas states that she requires more information on what her land is needed for and the amount of compensation she will be offered before she instructs an agent to act on her behalf. It is noted, with apologies, that the first information request erroneously referred to the "representatives or executors of Ms Nicholas".
8. In his response to the first information request, dated 4 September 2026, Mark Avis-Ainsworth states that he rents the land belonging to Ms Nicholas and owns the land in the name of John Ainsworth². Mr Avis-Ainsworth states that the Applicant has not negotiated with him or contacted him directly on this matter and he asks for clarity on the exact amount of land that is involved in the application and its location in relation to his land.
9. The Applicant's response to the first information request, dated 8 September 2026, states that "there is to be no update to be made in respect of Ms Nicholas or Mr Ainsworth – engagement will be undertaken post DCO consent".
10. The Secretary of State notes that the comments in these responses appear inconsistent with entries in the Land and Rights Negotiations³ and Deadline 6 submission⁴, which state that negotiations for these land interests are ongoing. **The Applicant** is requested to provide further detail regarding how they have prior

³ [https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010153-000720-4.4_Land%20and%20Rights%20Negotiations%20Tracker%20P03%20\(Clean\).pdf](https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010153-000720-4.4_Land%20and%20Rights%20Negotiations%20Tracker%20P03%20(Clean).pdf)

⁴ https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010153-000892-8.49_Applicant%20Deadline%206%20Cover%20Letter.pdf

to seeking compulsory acquisition⁵, including a timeline of contact between themselves and Ms Nicholas, and Mr Avis-Ainsworth or representatives of the estate of John Ainsworth.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

11. The deadline for response is **23:59 on 14 October 2026**.
12. Responses should be submitted **by email only** to FrodshamSolarFarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.
13. Responses will be published on the Frodsham Solar project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website **as soon as possible after 14 October 2026**:
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010153>
14. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Proposed Development or any part of the project.
15. 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,

John Wheadon

John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation

Department of Energy Security & Net Zero

⁵ In accordance with the relevant guidance: 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land' (September 2013, Department for Communities and Local Government)' at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a748a8ce5274a7f9902904a/Planning_Act_2008_-_Guidance_related_to_procedures_for_the_compulsory_acquisition_of_land.pdf

and 'Guidance on the compulsory purchase process'

(Updated 17 June 2026, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a327dabc6e94f095f3ef949/CPO_Guidance_Update_2026.pdf