

**For the attention of the Appointed Representative and Ministry of Defence**

**Aquind Interconnector Project**

**Decision on Disclosure**

We have considered various representations made by the Applicant's Appointed Representative ("AR") and the Ministry of Defence ("MOD") as to the potential for further OPEN disclosure.

Having done so, and for reasons which we will set out in further detail in a subsequent CLOSED document, which will be provided to the AR and MOD in due course, we do not consider it appropriate to require further OPEN disclosure at this stage.

However, we consider there is merit in the AR's representations as to the potential benefit of the AR having access to expert advice on the matters raised by the MOD.

We therefore consider that the AR should be entitled to explore the option of appointing a suitable expert with the necessary clearance to assist the AR (noting that the AR has already considered the potential ability to do this with SASO).

We consider that the expert can then provide advice to the AR on the substantive objection. The expert may also be able to assist on the question of further OPEN disclosure.

We propose to keep the question of further OPEN disclosure under review in light of any such further advice and representations from the AR to the MOD as necessary. If this objection were being dealt with in OPEN (rather than in a CLOSED procedure because of national security concerns) it would ordinarily be for the Applicant to pay for such expert advice. Consistent with that position, we consider that the applicant ought to fund the costs of any expert advice provided to the AR.

We invite the AR and MOD to confirm that this decision can be made available to the Applicant in OPEN so that the Applicant can decide whether to give authority and instruct the AR to obtain advice from a suitable expert in the CLOSED process and to pay for such advice.

We will then direct that the Applicant have 14 days from receipt of this letter in OPEN to provide such instructions.

We will set out a further timetable for the provision of further representations from the AR and expert appointee and the MOD response after the Applicant has provided such instructions.

UK OFFICIAL

**Vicky Dawe**  
**Director of Energy Development**  
**DESNZ**  
**Dated 6 August 2025**