

SEALINK

ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION BY THE ALDEBURGH SOCIETY

29 April 2026

The Society has noted the Applicant's late document 9.154 'Approach to Adopting DESNZ Requirement Discharge Unit for SeaLink', registered as AS-167. This sets out changes to the draft DCO based upon proposals not yet implemented by DESNZ for the creation of an executive unit to supervise the implementation of commitments in respect of new nuclear and electricity projects.

We consider that it would be wrong in principle for the DCO, if finally approved, to make reference to a body which has not yet been set up and has no defined terms of reference or powers. We also feel great concern that the effect of placing supervision responsibilities in the hands of a non-transparent central government agency would be to weaken the position of the local authorities which know their areas closely and are much better placed to assess the impact of any proposed actions. The local authorities have been closely engaged with the development of SeaLink since its inception and with the detailed examination of all its aspects by the Planning Inspectorate. They have negotiated improvements to many details of the plans and are fully aware of their local impact. The communities they serve need to be able to rely on their having a clear role in ensuring that developers fulfil their obligations. On a broader front we find it hard to comprehend how a national agency could cope sensitively with the supervision of numerous energy infrastructure projects in diverse parts of the country. At best it could serve as an information and best practice exchange mechanism, but it should certainly not supplant the functions of democratically elected local authorities.

We urge the Examining Authority to reject the proposal set out in AS-167 in full as it represents a speculative and unjustified late change to the draft DCO (which we continue to oppose wholesale for the reasons set out in our earlier submissions).