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sent via e-mail

Our Ref: EN010027

Date: 28 November 2013

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## **Application by DONG Energy Walney Extension (UK) Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm**

Dear Mr Pennington

Thank you for your e-mail dated 23 November 2013 regarding the above project.

As you know, the Rhiannon Wind Farm (Round 3 Irish Sea Zone) project is currently at the pre-application stage of the process under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA 2008) regime.

Under the PA 2008, the developer is required to carry out consultation with local communities and a range of other stakeholders on their proposals at the pre-application stage. It is for developers to determine the timing of their consultation periods at this stage of the process. The Planning Inspectorate advises developers to be mindful of public engagement activities on other projects in designing their consultation strategies in order to minimise the risk of confusing or overburdening consultees. Due to the number of projects in some areas some overlap in consultation or representation periods cannot always be altogether avoided.

I advise that at this stage you do raise your concerns with Celtic Array Ltd, the developer of the Rhiannon Wind Farm, as this is the best time to influence a project. In addition I have brought your concerns to the attention of my colleagues working on the Rhiannon Wind Farm project.

The purpose of the Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm Preliminary Meeting was to focus solely on the procedure for examining the application. The meeting provided an opportunity for registered interested parties the opportunity to tell the Examining Authority (ExA) how they thought the application should be examined.

Following the Preliminary Meeting, the Rule 8 Letter was published on 20 November 2013 which provided details of how the application is to be examined and also includes the final proposed examination timetable. Please be aware that when preparing the examination timetable, the Planning Inspectorate has taken into

consideration the Christmas and Easter holidays and allowed for more time for interested parties to respond to the ExA's deadlines in some cases.

The ExA is now under a statutory duty to complete their examination of the proposal within 6 months beginning on the last day of the Preliminary Meeting.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

*Steffan Jones*

**Steffan Jones**  
**Case Officer**

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.