

23rd February 2021

PINS Ref: EA1N- EN010077 and EA2 - EN010078

My Ref ID Nos: EA1N 20023910 and EA2 20023912

Dear Examining Authority,

DEADLINE 6 Submission

I would like to respond to Action Point 2, The Planning Balance, from Open Floor Hearing 6.

I call upon the Examining Authorities to recommend to the Secretary of State a 'split decision' so that:

1. The offshore turbines are recommended for consent. (I am fully supportive of renewable energy and have no objections to the offshore elements of these DCO applications with the proviso that all installations are acceptable to stakeholder concerns over the statutory purposes of the AONB affected by these proposals).

2. The onshore infrastructure is rejected in favour of full consideration of better locations for this infrastructure where the adverse impacts are minimised at a brownfield site.

As an Interested Party, I have participated throughout the course of the Hearings and I think one thing has become clear, the adverse impacts of this particular onshore site location substantially outweigh the benefits of the application when taken as a whole. The impact on our environment and the local communities and economy would be devastating, but importantly needlessly devastating. There are alternative sites available which could avoid this destruction by their virtue of being at a brownfield site.

These Applications have come at an unprecedented time of consensus around the importance of offshore wind in reducing the UK's carbon emissions and meeting the government's 2030 offshore wind targets. They have also come at an unprecedented time of consensus around the acutely detrimental impacts of radial connections proposed in these Applications.

There are still 9 years to go until the Government's 2030 offshore wind targets. There is time for Scottish Power Renewables, National Grid and the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to get this planning Application right without jeopardising these important targets.

A 'split decision' would mean that no time is wasted with respect to the construction of the offshore turbines but would give the opportunity to rethink the onshore aspects of this project to fall in line with current government aspirations.

From The Energy White Paper:

"We will safeguard our cherished landscapes, restore habitats for wildlife in order to combat biodiversity loss and adapt to climate change, all whilst creating green jobs."

"To minimise the impact on local communities, we will implement a more efficient approach to connecting offshore generation to the mainland grid."

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Winter