From:

To:

Subject:

Scottish Power Renewables EA1N and EA2 proposals - Deadline 6 Submission

Date: 22 February 2021 11:12:49

PINS Ref: EA1N- EN010077 and EA2 - EN010078

My Ref ID Nos. (EA1N) 20023188 and (EA2) 20023189

Dear Examining Authority

This is a response to Action Point 2, 'The Planning Balance' from Open Floor Hearing 6

I would like to ask 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 applications.
- 2. **The onshore infrastructure (landfall, cabling, and substations site) is rejected** in favour of full consideration of better locations for this infrastructure, where the adverse impacts are minimised.

As an Interested Party, I have participated throughout the course of the hearings, and the destructive impacts of these proposals on the village of Friston and on the whole of the Sandlings area have become clearer and clearer as matters have developed.

It is evident now that the adverse impact of the proposed onshore infrastructure substantially outweighs the benefits of the application when taken as a whole. The impact on our environment and the local communities and economy would be devastating, and quite unnecessary, as there are alternative brownfield sites available which could avoid this destruction.

These Applications have come at an unprecedented time of agreement around the importance of offshore wind in reducing the UK's carbon emissions and meeting the government's 2030 offshore wind targets. At the same time, the Government have asserted their commitment to preserving our countryside and our heritage – as it says in 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."

There are still 9 years to go until the Government's 2030 offshore wind targets. There is time for ScottishPower 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 — again quoting the Energy White Paper: "To minimise the impact on local communities, we will implement a more efficient approach to connecting offshore generation to the mainland grid."

Thank you for the opportunity that you have given us all to speak and represent our views over the past year – at this stage I would be extremely grateful if you would recommend a 'split decision'.

Best wishes,

Alan Bullard

Friston