

Date: 08 December 2021
Our ref: NE/JNCC SBIP Consultation
Your ref: EN010080



Department for Business, Energy and Industry Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Leigh

**Re: HORNSEA THREE OFFSHORE WIND FARM ORDER 2020 (AS AMENDED) (“the Order”)
SUBMISSION OF SANDBANKS IMPLEMENTATION PLANS UNDER PART 2 OF
SCHEDULE 14 TO THE ORDER**

Dear Mr Leigh

Thank you for your letter dated 3rd December 2021 consulting Natural England ('NE') and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee ('JNCC') on the above submission.

NE and JNCC ('the SNCBs') are writing to request additional time to consider the submission and provide our statutory advice to BEIS. This is due to competing resource pressures associated with other offshore wind NSIPs and significant resource constraints during the Christmas period. Unfortunately the proposed deadline of 7th January 2021 will not provide sufficient time for the SNCBs formulate our advice.

We highlight that the Sandbanks Implementation Plans are the first compensatory measures mandated under the Habitats Regulations for impacts on benthic SACs and are therefore precedent setting. Accordingly the ecological and legal implications need to be carefully considered.

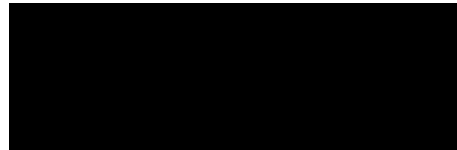
With the above in mind, the SNCBs kindly request that the Secretary of State consider granting an extension to 23:59 on Friday 21st January 2022.

If you have any queries or require further detail please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Martin Kerby
Principal Adviser for Offshore Wind
Natural England



Karema Randall
Marine Management Co-Team Leader
JNCC