

Rynd Smith  
Leader Member of the Examining Authority  
**By Email only:** [ThanetExtension@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ThanetExtension@pins.gsi.gov.uk)

21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Dear Mr Smith

**For the attention of: the Examining Authority for the Thanet Extension Offshore Windfarm regarding Statement Of Common Ground**

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We are writing to you following the publication of the Rule 8 letter (dated 18 December 2018) and subsequent correspondence with the applicant regarding the production of a Statement of Common Ground with the RSPB.

Due to ill health please accept our apologies for being unable to submit this letter before the deadline given to the appliance, the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. However we wanted to ensure the Examiners panel were made aware of RSPB position as soon as practicable.

As set out in the RSPB's Relevant Representation, resource constraints mean that we are not able to make any further submissions to the Examination beyond the Relevant Representation. In this context, the key resource constraint is availability of scientific expertise as this is wholly committed to other offshore wind farm projects in England and Scotland.

We understand from the applicant that the RSPB was listed as an interested party for which the Examining Authority requested a Statement of Common Ground to be prepared (although we note the relevant Annex (Annex E) is not included with the Rule 8 letter published on the Planning Inspectorate website). Due to the aforementioned resource constraints, we regret to inform the Examining Authority that the RSPB will not be able to negotiate and conclude a Statement of Common Ground with the applicant for the Thanet Extension Offshore Windfarm proposal.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause the Examining Authority and the applicant.

Yours sincerely,



**Dora Querido**  
**Conservation Officer**

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