



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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Application Ref. EN010087

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Frances Fernandes
Lead Member of the Panel
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

4th December 2019

Dear Ms Fernandes,

The Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm

Application for a Development Consent Order under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008

I write to represent the position of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with respect to the written questions raised by the Examining Authority in relation to the above application. Although none of the written questions, to date, are specifically addressed to the MOD, I thought it might be beneficial to clarify its position in relation to questions 11.1.1 and 11.1.3 which concern the impact of the proposed development upon air defence radar, military low flying and mitigation of these impacts. These questions state as follows:

Q11.1.1 - Consultations with MoD on Military aviation and Air Defence Radar (ADR):

APP-229 Table 16.2 Consultation Responses reports: Dec 2018: *'In response to statutory consultation the MoD stated that when operational the Norfolk Boreas wind turbines will be detectable to and cause unacceptable interference to the radar. Furthermore, the wind turbines and associated offshore platforms will affect military low flying activities conducted in the area. The MoD have accepted a proposed mitigation solution to mitigate the Norfolk Boreas 'sister project' Norfolk Vanguard impact to the Trimingham ADR, it is expected that this mitigation solution will also be applicable to Norfolk Boreas.'*

The Applicant to provide an update on consultation with the MoD with regard to

1. effects on the Trimingham ADR system; and
2. effects to low-flying activities in the area.

Q11.1.3 -Mitigation of effects to Civil and Military Radar:

APP-229 para 91 states that: *'Until mitigation is in place; the impact to [PSR and ADR] radar systems is of major significance. However, mitigation of the radar systems will be agreed with NATS and the MoD prior to offshore construction works which will remove the impact created by Norfolk Boreas and reduce the impact to not significant.'*

The Applicant to provide updated statements of agreement of mitigation from NATS and MoD.

I can confirm that, without technical mitigation, the proposed development will cause unmanageable interference to the effective operation of the air defence radar at Trimingham. In addition, elements of the offshore development proposed will affect military low flying training activities that may be conducted in this area.

The MOD has formally accepted the technical mitigation that the applicant has submitted to address the impacts of both the Vanguard and Boreas offshore windfarms on the air defence radar. In addition, the impacts upon military low flying training activities can be addressed through the installation of appropriate aviation warning lighting.

Requirements 12 - Aviation Safety and 13 - MOD Surveillance Operation, as included in the draft Development Consent Order submitted by the applicant, implement these requirements using wording agreed with the MOD.

On this basis the MOD maintains no safeguarding objection to this application subject to these Requirements being included in any consent that may be granted. For your reference please find enclosed, a copy of my letter of 6th September 2019 which confirms our current position in relation to this application.

I trust this adequately explains our position in relation to this application. Should you require further information or clarification on these matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jon Wilson
Senior Safeguarding Manager