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**Subject:** Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas consenting timescale  
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Dear Planning Inspectorate

**REF: Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas consenting timescale**

We have had the benefit of working with the Vattenfall team across our region since 2016. Their contribution to our communities of young people and their vision for a strategic and supportive path into the significant career growth areas offered by renewables has been outstanding.

As we work our way through the Brexit process and find ways to survive and regenerate post COVID-19, at no time in our history do we need investment and economic growth more. The overriding message that I am taking from COVID-19 is that now more than ever we need to work together as a community, prioritise on the real issues that we as a region and as a country are facing and be selfless in taking decisions which are for the greater good and cognoscente of the needs of our future generations.

Four years of community engagement by Vattenfall have resulted in a fully considered planning application, supported by a major investment in the exhaustive scientific, engineering and economic research which backs up each and every aspect of the application. The process truly represents interaction with the people of the region and the changes made are a reflection of those people's wishes. All parties have had time to reflect on the issues and feed into the project design.

Despite this we note that at this late stage a small number of parties are requesting a delay to the Norfolk Boreas NSIP examination process. The NSIP timetable is a statutory one, and, should it be considered, the extraordinary measure of extending it now, so very close to the end of the examination process, when all issues have been examined robustly may have serious implications on the projects ability to contribute to our regional economy. The opportunity for this project to impact significantly upon our environment and our contribution to the UK's carbon reduction plans may be lost and our regions green economy supply chains and the opportunity for training, apprenticeships and employment which they offer will move elsewhere.

Offshore wind indisputably offers a cost effective means of generating power, the cost saving from which will naturally on pass to the communities they serve. If the project application process is delayed this could mean that Norfolk Boreas will not be ready to bid for the Government's support mechanism in 2021, something which is vital to the viability of the project. It would mean an additional two year delay, possibly longer, before the project could proceed.

It is inconceivable at this point that a relatively small number of people could delay, disrupt or

damage a project of such region wide significance at this point in time.

The level of uncertainty that will result will have a negative impact on investor confidence and further delay the region's socio-economic strategy and post COVID-19 recovery, this is not a message the region needs. I would ask, is this really the time to jeopardise a 25 year, multi-billion pound, Inwards investment project which has the potential to contribute so widely to our climate, our community, our young people and our supply chains.

In our working life and on a global basis we see countries suffering as a result of lack of security of energy supply. We see major industrial nations reaching out to us in the UK and Europe in need of our skill sets and the expertise developed through years of forward thinking investment in renewables, in particular offshore wind. We have an opportunity to develop skill sets here in our region which could have a future global impact and which will support our security of energy supply. Undoubtedly by supporting the growth of these skills we will also be enabling a contribution to our region's economy and wellbeing.

I would appeal therefore that a long term, holistic view is taken and that full support is given to the project at this time.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Yvonne

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