



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

By email: [NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Simone Wilding  
Head of Operations  
The Planning Inspectorate

11 May 2020

**Department for Business, Energy &  
Industrial Strategy**

Energy Infrastructure Planning

Level 3, Orchard 2,

1 Victoria Street

London SW1H 0ET

T: 020 7215 5000

E: [beiseip@beis.gov.uk](mailto:beiseip@beis.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/beis](http://www.gov.uk/beis)

**PLANNING ACT 2008: Application to extend the examination period for the Norfolk Boreas Wind Farm (Norfolk Boreas) development from 12 May 2020 to 12 October 2020.**

Dear Simone,

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“the Secretary of State”) to refer to the request to extend the examination period - for no longer than five months – to the Norfolk Boreas Wind Farm development.
2. BEIS received a request from the Planning Inspectorate – on 6 April 2020 - to extend the examination period for Norfolk Boreas, which followed a number of requests made to the Examining Authority for an extension.
3. The main reasons for the Examining Authority’s request were:
  - Due to Government guidelines in relation to Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) several hearings needed to be cancelled, potentially resulting in Interested Parties not being given a fair opportunity to participate in the examination.
  - A number of Interested Parties no longer had the capacity to participate in the examination process as a result of COVID-19 resource prioritisation.
4. Taking these reasons into account and, after careful consideration, the Secretary of State has agreed to the new timescales which mean that the examination period is now reset as 12 October 2020 and will be confirmed in a Written Ministerial Statement shortly.
5. However, the Secretary of State is clear that he expects the Examining Authority to make best efforts to complete the examination process as soon as is reasonably practicable within the extended period.

6. To achieve this the Secretary of State requests that the Examining Authority publishes the new examination timetable by Tuesday 19 May 2020, ensuring that all Interested Parties are notified and that regular updates on progress are provided to the Energy Infrastructure Planning team within BEIS. Any departures from the revised timetable should be reported, with an explanation for the change, as soon as possible to the parties within the examination and to this Department.
7. We expect guidance in relation to planning processes to be published shortly by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. This should help to ensure that all parties involved are given a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in the examination and for the process to progress well within the new examination period.

*Gareth Leigh*

Yours sincerely,  
Gareth Leigh  
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning