

National Infrastructure Directorate
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

10 February 2022

Dear Mr Johansson

Planning Act 2008 – Participation in Preliminary Meeting
Osted Hornsea Project Four Limited
Application ref: EN010098

I refer to the Rule 6 Letter received 24 January 2022 and can confirm that the Applicant intends to speak during the Preliminary Meeting. The Applicant would like to speak on, and requests the Examining Authority to either note or raise the following topics for discussion during the Preliminary Meeting. In addition to the points flagged below, the Applicant reserves the right to comment in response to any issues which may be raised by other participants.

Wellbeing and Mental Health during Examination

In the interest of the wellbeing of all participants of the Examination process, we would like to propose that the submission time for deadlines, as referenced in Annex D of the Rule 6 letter, is bought forward from 23:59 to 18:00 on the day of the deadline. This will discourage very late night working from all parties and would demonstrate a commitment to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of participants through Examination, which is widely regarded as being a particularly stressful time.

We have raised this proposal with the Planning Inspectorate at various points throughout our pre-application consultation and with some of our statutory stakeholders and have received feedback that it would be generally welcomed. We note that variation in submission deadlines is variable and at the discretion of the Examining Authority as demonstrated by Deadline 8 at midday on Thursday 18 August 2022.

Draft Examination Timetable

Within Annex D Draft Examination timetable there is a substantial overlap with the draft Examination deadlines and hearings and school holidays. This may be particularly challenging for stakeholders who have to balance participation with a limited number of working days and family care responsibilities. We ask that consideration is given to this by the Examining Authority. In particular, we note:

- The first set of hearings (11, 12 and 13 April) fall within school Easter half term. We highlight this particularly as two of the hearings are Open Floor and CA hearings and therefore hearings in which local people such as landowners and communities would be expected to participate.

- We also note that the deadline for follow up submissions to those hearings (21 April) falls only 3 working days after the close of Easter half term and is within a limited 4 working day period for stakeholders to prep for ISH hearings due to commence w/c 25 April.
- The publication of ExQ2 (30 May) falls in the same week as the two bank holidays for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (2/3 June), which may again pose issues for stakeholders responding to those questions.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant is willing and able to meet the deadlines and attend the hearings as set out in the draft timetable.

Schedules of Change

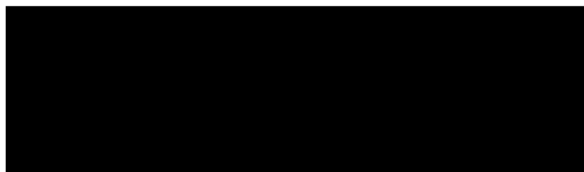
For the Section 51 submission the Applicant submitted Schedule of Change documents to show the changes to each of the application documents that had undergone updates. This was done to prevent the repeated submission of large documents and to provide an overview of the combined changes made to a document pre-examination. We would like to continue to use this method of capturing updates to documents throughout Examination at the Examiners' discretion. If this method of document submission is accepted we would provide Schedules of Change at each deadline and submit the finalised documents capturing all of the agreed changes at the end of Examination or the final deadline. We note that this will not be appropriate for all documents but would like the opportunity to discuss this during the Preliminary Meeting.

Statements of Common Ground

We would like to speak during the Preliminary Meeting on the requirements around the Statements of Common Ground. This would include the requirement for a Statement of Common Ground with the NFU and the submission of letters of comfort or memorandums of understanding with some commercial stakeholders. We also intend to discuss the relevant parties with whom a Statement of Common Ground is sought relating to Endurance.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt this letter and whether these topics will be taken forward into the agenda for the Preliminary Meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Hannah Towner-Roethe at HATOW@orsted.com.

Yours sincerely,



Julian Carolan

Consent Project Manager

Orsted Hornsea Project Four