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The Applicant and all Interested Parties, Affected Persons, Statutory Parties and Other Parties invited to the Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010098

Date: 30 May 2022

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) Section 89  
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 8(3)**

**Application by Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm**

**Timetable variation**

The Examining Authority (ExA) writes to the Applicant and all Interested Parties, Affected Persons, Statutory Parties and Other Parties following a request submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 4a [REP4a-002] suggesting an amendment to the Examination Timetable.

The Applicant [REP4a-001] has advised that at Deadline 5 it intends to submit further information into the Examination in relation to the seabird baseline characterisation data and the use and interpretation of MRSea. The Applicant [REP4a-002] notes that the current Examination Timetable provides a relatively long period before other Interested Parties (including Natural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)) are required to provide a response following Deadline 5. Given the limited time available to the ExA to examine the Application, the Applicant has suggested the insertion of a new deadline for either the week commencing 4 July 2022 or the week commencing 11 July 2022 for comments on all Deadline 5 submissions.

Given the limited time available left in the Examination, the ExA agrees that the creation of an earlier deadline for submission of responses to Deadline 5 submissions would be helpful as it could inform the need for and content of the

Issue Specific Hearings that are reserved for the week commencing 18 July 2022. Consequently, the ExA has revised the Examination Timetable as follows:

1. **Deadline 5a:** In order to inform any Hearings (if required) timetabled for the week commencing the 18 July 2022, the ExA has set a new deadline of **Monday 4 July 2022 (Deadline 5a)** for responses to documents submitted at Deadline 5 and comments on responses to Further Written Questions (ExQ2).
2. **Deadline 6:** As a result of the creation of Deadline 5a, the request for comments on responses to ExQ2 has been deleted from Deadline 6 and the second last bullet point has been amended to read '*Comments on any submissions submitted for Deadline 5a*'.

In addition:

1. As the ExA is publishing ExQ2 it has taken the opportunity to remove references to (if required) and (if published) in relation to ExQ2 from the Examination Timetable.
2. The ExA noted that the date for Deadline 8 in its Rules 8(3), 9 and 17 letter [PD-010] erroneously referred to midday on Monday 18 August 2022 rather than midday on Thursday 18 August 2022. The ExA has therefore taken the opportunity to correct this.

The revised Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A**. This replaces the Timetable that was issued with the Rules 8(3), 9 and 17 letter [PD-010] dated 19 May 2022.

Electronic submissions should be made via the [Make a Submission](#) tab.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of the letter, please contact the case team using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

*Jo Dowling*

**Jo Dowling**  
**Lead Member of the Examining Authority**

**Annex A:** Revised Timetable for Examination

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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## Revised Timetable for Examination of the Application

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to complete the Examination of the Application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The examination of the application primarily takes the form of consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Matters</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Publication of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ExA's Further Written Questions (ExQ2)</li> </ul>	<b>Monday 30 May 2022</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Deadline 5</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses to ExQ2</li> <li>An updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) in clean and tracked versions (if required)</li> <li>Schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required)</li> <li>An updated Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Schedule in clean and tracked versions</li> <li>Progressed Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) and an updated Statement of Commonality of SoCGs</li> <li>Comments on any submissions received at Deadlines 4 and 4a</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<b>Monday 20 June 2022</b>
<b>19a.</b>	<b>Deadline 5a</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on responses to ExQ2</li> <li>Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 5</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Monday 4 July 2022</b>
<b>20.</b>	<b>Dates reserved (if required) for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</li> <li>Any Issue Specific Hearing</li> </ul>	<b>To be held virtually on MS Teams in the</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Item	Matters	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any Open Floor Hearing</li> </ul>	<b>week commencing Monday 18 July 2022</b>
<b>21.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 6</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case put at hearings during w/c 18 July 2022 (if held)</li> <li>An updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>An updated version of the draft DCO in clean, tracked and Word versions</li> <li>Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>An updated CA Schedule in clean and tracked versions</li> <li>Progressed SoCGs an updated Statement of Commonality of SoCGs</li> <li>Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 5a.</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 27 July 2022</b>
<b>22.</b>	<p><b>Issue by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Report into the Implications for European Sites (RIES)(if required)</li> <li>The ExA's preferred draft DCO, proposed schedule of changes, or commentary on the draft DCO (If required)</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 28 July 2022</b>
<b>23.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 7</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on the ExA's preferred draft DCO, proposed schedule of changes, or commentary on the draft DCO (if issued)</li> <li>Final SoCGs and Statement of Commonality of SoCGs, also listing matters not agreed (in circumstances where a SoCG could not be finalised)</li> <li>Final version of the draft DCO in clean, tracked and word versions</li> <li>Final schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 10 August 2022</b>

Item	Matters	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI validation report</li> <li>• Final Guide to the Application</li> <li>• Final CA Schedule in clean and tracked versions</li> <li>• An updated Book of Reference</li> <li>• Signed and dated planning obligations and any other agreements (if required)</li> <li>• Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 6</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules</li> </ul>	
24.	<p><b>Deadline 8</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on the RIES (if issued)</li> <li>• Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 7</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Midday on Thursday 18 August 2022</b>
25.	<p>The ExA is under duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the six months.</p> <p>Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.</p>	<b>Monday 22 August 2022</b>

### Submission times for deadlines

The time for the submission of documents at all deadlines **except** Deadline 8 is 23:59 on the relevant deadline date although you are welcome to submit documents in advance of the deadline. The deadline for Deadline 8 is **midday** on Thursday 18 August 2022. The acceptance of documents after the expiry of the deadline is subject to the exercise of discretion by the ExA.

### Publication dates

All information will be published on the project webpage of the [National Infrastructure Planning website](#) as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submission.