



**Written Submission**  
**for the**  
**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**  
**Response to the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions**  
**(ExQ2)**

**Issued on 30 May 2022**

**Submitted for Deadline 5a**  
**4 July 2022**

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended)**

**In the matter of:**

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

**Planning Inspectorate Ref: EN010098**

**RSPB Registration Identification Ref: 20029909**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The RSPB's responses to the remaining Examining Authority's Second Written questions (ExQ2) are set out in the table below.

## Responses to the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions

ExQ1	Question to:	Question	RSPB response
<b>Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)</b>			
HRA.2.2	Applicant Natural England The RSPB	<p><b>Derogation case and alternatives</b></p> <p>In response to ExQ1 HRA.1.21, the Applicant [REP2-038] noted an intention to refine the Maximum Design Scenario for some parameters. As these were downwards, the Applicant did not anticipate consequent implications for the HRA. Given the updates to the relevant baselines and assessments that have been submitted into the Examination subsequently, should the Applicant be considering and reporting on any further alternatives or mitigation options that might reduce any potential Adverse Effects on Integrity of European sites?</p>	The RSPB will only comment on this once we have had time to fully review the revised baseline submitted at Deadline 5.
<b>Marine and coastal bird ecology</b>			
ME 2.8	Applicant Natural England The RSPB	<p><b>Re-run of MRSea and use of design-based estimates for seabird baseline</b></p> <p><b>To Natural England and RSPB:</b> Please comment on the proposed scope of work provided by the Applicant at Deadline 4a [REP4a001] for the re-run of the MRSea analysis and the partially revised approach using design-based estimates for the assessment.</p> <p><b>To Applicant</b> Please provide an update on the outcome of the sixteenth meeting of the Ornithology Technical Panel Meeting held on 25 May 2022 in relation to discussions about the re-run of MRSea or the use of design-based estimates for seabird baselines.</p>	The RSPB welcomes the scope of works provided by the Applicant at Deadline 4a and the revised baseline submitted at Deadline 5. We agree with the approach laid out in the scope of work and are currently reviewing the submissions to Deadline 5.