



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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To:

Our Ref: EN010098

Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited  
Natural England

Date: 09 February 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Application by Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (“Hornsea Project Four”)**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 22 August 2022, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application for the proposed Development (the “Application”) to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (“the Secretary of State”)<sup>1</sup> on 22 November 2022. The statutory deadline for determining the Application was 22 February 2023. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has decided to set a new deadline to decide the Application of 12 July 2023.
2. On 16 December 2022, the Secretary of State requested information from Interested Parties (“the first consultation letter”).
3. Further to that letter, there are some additional outstanding matters on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the **Applicant** and **Natural England** could provide further updates or information as appropriate.

**The Applicant**

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<sup>1</sup> On 7 February 2023 the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero was created with focus on the energy portfolio of the former Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

4. Regarding the without-prejudice predator eradication measure proposed by the Applicant to compensate for impacts to guillemot and razorbill of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA, the Applicant refers<sup>2</sup> to a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) agreed by the States of Guernsey and the Alderney Wildlife Trusts, in addition to letters of comfort. The Secretary of State notes that the letters of comfort are provided at Appendix A and B of REP7-031, and requests that the MOU is also submitted.
5. With regards to the proposal to repurpose the Wenlock Platform as an artificial nesting structure (ANS): the Applicant is requested to confirm: what consents and licences will be required to repurpose the platform and when these will be provided; whether the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) has agreed that this platform can be repurposed as an ANS; and when the required repurposing works would be completed in relation to the first operation of any turbine.

## Natural England

6. In relation to the additional environmental information submitted by the Applicant on 13 January 2023<sup>2,3</sup>, Natural England is invited to provide comments on the new information, including but not limited to:
  - The adequacy of the updated models to assess the in-combination impacts on the kittiwake, razorbill, guillemot, gannet and the seabird assemblage features of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA; and whether an adverse effect on the integrity of each of these features can be excluded.
  - The adequacy of the updated in-combination assessment of impacts on the red-throated diver and common scoter features of the Greater Wash SPA; and whether an adverse effect on the integrity of these features can be excluded.
  - If an adverse effect on integrity cannot be excluded, the adequacy of the proposed compensation measures to provide effective and deliverable compensation for the impacts of the Project.

**7. Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to [hornseaprojectfour@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:hornseaprojectfour@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) by 23.59 on 09 March 2023.**

8. Responses will be published on the Hornsea Project Four project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 09 March 2023:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-002234-G9.2%20Applicants%20Response%20to%20RFI%20dated%2016%20December.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-002242-G9.3%20Figure%204%20extract%20from%20G6.3%20Kittiwake%20Onshore%20Artificial%20Nesting%20Structure%20Site%20Selection%20and%20Evidence%20on%20Nesting%20Limitations%20Update.pdf>

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-project-four-offshore-wind-farm/>

9. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Hornsea Project Four or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully

*David Wagstaff*

David Wagstaff OBE

Deputy Director, Energy Infrastructure Planning

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero