



# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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Safeguarding Department  
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Your Reference: [REDACTED]

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Ms Menaka Sahai  
National Infrastructure Planning  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

20 February 2023

**By email only**

Dear Ms Sahai

## **National Infrastructure Planning: Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects**

I write in response to the Examining Authority's first written questions issued 27 January 2023.

For context, through a letter to the Examining Authority (ExA) dated 19 January 2023, MOD objected to the development on the basis that the development would have a significant and detrimental impact on the effective operation and capability of air defence radars deployed at Remote Radar Head (RRH) Trimingham and RRH Neatishead, as well as impacting on the operation of a technical asset (communications equipment) sited at RAF Weybourne.

Following that response, the applicant has met with MOD Safeguarding to discuss potential routes to address these objections. Subsequent email exchanges have provided sufficient information to allow a more in-depth assessment of the landfall and onshore elements. MOD are now able to remove objections relating to the impact of the development on the RAF Weybourne site.

At this time the objection on the grounds that the development would have a significant and detrimental impact on the effective operation and capability of air defence radars deployed at Remote Radar Head (RRH) Trimingham and RRH Neatishead is maintained.

Responses to each of the Examining Authority's first written questions are set out below:

### **Q1.4.1.1 – Aviation and Radar**

- a) Provide here or in the SoCG, an up-to-date position with regards to negotiations with MoD and whether any concern or issues remain to the Proposed Development [APP-101]?**

A meeting was held on 31 January 2023 to discuss the content of the representations submitted to the Examining Authority dated 19 January 2023. The steps/actions necessary to address MOD concerns have been identified. The MOD requires that the developer submits an acceptable Air Defence radar mitigation proposal for MOD assessment.

- b) Has the applicant submitted a mitigation proposal to the DIO/MOD, but if not when will this likely happen? What is the likely timeframe in working towards this mitigation?**

At this time no mitigation proposal has been submitted to DIO/MOD. On receipt of any mitigation proposal MOD will carry out assessments to determine acceptability or otherwise. The submission of, and timescale associated with, submitting a mitigation proposal is a matter for the applicant.

#### **Q1.4.1.3 – RAF Weybourne**

- a) How can the Proposed Development within the statutory safeguarding zone of RAF Weybourne avoid any unacceptably adverse impacts to technical assets?**
- b) Describe what, if any, parameters or restrictions could be incorporated and secured by the dDCO to ensure the safeguarding of the assets at RAF Weybourne.**

Through a meeting with the applicant held on 31 January 2023, and subsequent email exchanges, additional data has now been provided that allow MOD to better understand the works proposed and to understand the duct stringing/welding operation. MOD is now in a position to withdraw the objection relating to the impact of the development on the operation and capability of technical assets deployed at RAF Weybourne. A separate letter will be sent to ExA shortly to confirm this.

#### **Q1.11.5.5 – Requirement 27 - Ministry of Defence surveillance operations**

- a) Outline here or in your SoCG the milestones and associated timescales (in relation to this Examination) of how these discussions are likely to progress and conclude.**

The MOD requires that the developer submits an acceptable Air Defence radar mitigation proposal for MOD assessment. On receipt of any mitigation proposal, MOD will carry out assessments to determine acceptability or otherwise. The submission of, and timescale associated with, submitting a mitigation proposal is a matter for the applicant.

- b) Provide evidence where possible.**

At this time no mitigation proposal has been submitted to DIO/MOD.

- c) Outline the implications for the ExA's recommendation to the SoS, of not reaching agreement before the close of Examination.**

If no acceptable mitigation is submitted, MOD will maintain an objection to the proposed development.

I hope this adequately explains our position on the matter.

Yours sincerely

James Houghton  
Senior Safeguarding Manager