

BY EMAIL ONLY

John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and
Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW
20 December 2023

Your ref: EN010109

Dear John

Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects – EN010109

Response to Request for Information dated 22 November 2023

On behalf of Ørsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited (**OH3**) and Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited (**OH4**), I am responding to your Request for Information (**the RfI**) dated 22 November 2023.

In the RfI, you requested an update:

- at paragraph 9, from OH3 on any agreement reached with Equinor New Energy Limited (**Equinor**) on the protective provisions for OH3 for inclusion in the Development Consent Order (**DCO**); and
- at paragraph 16, from OH4 on whether collaboration with the Applicant would be appropriate in regard to the alternative compensation measures required for adaptive management.

I have responded to these points in turn below.

Paragraph 9 – Update from OH3

On behalf of OH3, I can confirm that OH3 has been negotiating with the Applicant on a cooperation agreement between (amongst others) OH3 and the Applicant. This agreement is in a substantially agreed form with work currently being undertaken to finalise the appendices so that engrossments can be prepared. OH3 anticipates that the cooperation agreement will be entered into shortly after Christmas.

Therefore (and noting OH3's objection is not in-principle in nature), whilst OH3's objection and request for protective provisions for its benefit to be included in the DCO remain in place until the formal completion of this cooperation agreement, OH3 anticipates being able to confirm the withdrawal of its objection, and request for protective provisions, prior to the end of the Secretary of State's determination period.

Paragraph 16 – Update from OH4

OH4 is also a party to the above-mentioned cooperation agreement. OH4 has also requested that protective provisions to be included for its benefit in the DCO, and whilst this request remains in place until the formal completion of this cooperation agreement, OH4 anticipates being able to

confirm that it no longer requires protective provisions prior to the end of the Secretary of State's determination period.

In relation to the specific query as to whether collaboration with the Applicant would be appropriate in regard to the alternative compensation measures required for adaptive management, I can confirm that Hornsea Project Four is at an early implementation stage of its required compensation measures for guillemot, to be secured through both predator eradication and bycatch measures. At this stage, OH4 cannot commit to collaborating with the Applicant in respect of the delivery of this compensation measure.

However, both the Applicant and Ørsted (with specific contributions from OH4) are contributing to several strategic compensation initiatives and OH4 will continue to collaborate with the Applicant through this platform, which comprises:

- Membership of the OWIC Developer Derogation Group, which provides coordinated industry perspectives on all matters related to derogation;
- Active participation in the Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation's Predator Reduction Expert Group; and
- Co-funding and strategic direction for the £3.5M OWEC project, which includes specific work on enabling collaboration and strategic delivery of predator reduction.

I trust the above information, relating to both aspects of the RfI, provides you with sufficient information on the position of OH3 and OH4 in respect of each matter, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further detail.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Watts

Commercial Project Manager

for Ørsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited and Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited