



The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure
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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and
any Other Person invited to the Preliminary
Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010115

Date: 30 August 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and 89 and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 6 and 9**

**Application by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited for an order
granting development consent for the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
project**

**Procedural Decisions concerning the making of a variation to the Preliminary
Meeting's Agenda and the publication of the Examining Authority's draft
Written Questions (dWQ1)**

We write further to the publication of our Rule 6 letter of 20 August 2024 [[PD-007](#)],
which amongst other things, included an invitation to attend the Preliminary Meeting
(PM) to be held on Tuesday 17 September 2024.

Amendment to the PM agenda

The Examining Authority (ExA) has made a Procedural Decision to amend the
agenda for the PM included as Annex A of the Rule 6 letter to address the
subsequent acceptance of the application for the proposed North Falls Offshore
Wind Farm (North Falls) for Examination on 22 August 2024. The ExA considers
there should be a discussion at the PM about the handling arrangements for
potential issues of commonality for the proposed Five Estuaries and North Falls
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, given that each project's application will
be the subject of an individual examination, with each examination being conducted
by its own ExA and it being likely that the examinations will overlap with one another
to some degree.

Accordingly, at the PM we intend that there will be a discussion of potential project commonality issues under a new agenda item 6, with the originally intended agenda item 6 (Any other matters) becoming item 7. The amendments to the PM agenda are shown in red in the amended agenda set out below.

Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting	
09:30	Registration and seating available at venue for in-person attendees
09:30	<p>Virtual Registration Process</p> <p>Please arrive at 09:30 to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the Case Team, greeted and given further instructions.</p> <p>The Registration Process will commence at 09:30. This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for the Preliminary Meeting and allow for any questions to be asked about how to take part.</p>
10:00	Preliminary Meeting
Item 1	The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at 10:00 . The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.
Item 2	The Examining Authority's remarks about the Examination process
Item 3	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – Annex C to Rule 6 letter
Item 4	Procedural Decisions – Annex D to this Rule 6 Letter and [PD-005]
Item 5	Draft Examination Timetable – Annex E to Rule 6 letter
Item 6	Handling of potential commonality issues for the proposed Five Estuaries Wind Farm and North Falls Offshore Wind Farm applications
Item 7	Any other matters
Close of the Preliminary Meeting	

Publication of the ExA's draft written questions (dWQ1)

In the Rule 6 letter the ExA gave advance notice of its intention to publish a draft list of written questions and requests for information (dWQ1) (see item 3 in Annex D of the Rule 6 letter). The ExA has prepared dWQ1 and we have made the Procedural Decision to publish dWQ1 at this time.

As previously advised in the Rule 6 letter the ExA intends to issue dWQ1 in its final form as the ExA's Written Questions 1 (ExQ1) on 8 October 2024, as indicated in the

draft Examination Timetable (see Annex E of the Rule 6 letter). The final version of dWQ1 may include some additional questions, while some questions may be changed or updated. The submission of responses will be to ExQ1 rather than dWQ1. Responses to the ExQ1 will be for submission at the proposed Deadline 2 (**Tuesday 22 October 2024**). The ExA would therefore remind the Applicant, other Interested Parties and other parties that **responses to the questions included in dWD1 should not be submitted in advance of their finalisation by the ExA and incorporation into ExQ1.**

Yours faithfully

Grahame Gould

Lead Member of the Examining Authority