



National Infrastructure  
Planning  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer 0303 444 5000  
Services:  
e-mail: [fiveestuaries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:fiveestuaries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

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Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm  
Limited  
Natural England

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010115

Date: 23 December 2024

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Dear Sirs

## **The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 17**

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

#### **Request for further information**

We are writing under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended).

Further information requested relates to the ornithological effects of the Proposed Development, with particular regard to the Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) [REP1-016], the Environmental Statement Annex 4.15 - Apportioning Note [REP1-020] and compensatory measures for both guillemot and razorbill species.

#### ***Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment***

##### ***For the Applicant***

In response to Natural England's relevant representation the Applicant has stated in Table 6.1 of the RIAA [page 111 of REP1-016] that an assessment has not been included for the Razorbill populations of the Farne Isles Special Protection Area (FISPA) "*... because the predicted impact from the displacement was 0.00%*". Identify the evidence that has been used to inform that conclusion.

It is also noted that the Applicant was unable to run the Population Viability Analysis with a burn-in of five years for Lesser Black Backed Gulls [REP4-040]. Could such analysis have affected the compensation quantum proposed for this species? If so, how and why?

## ***Apportioning Note***

### *For the Applicant*

The Applicant states in [REP4-040] under reference NE14 that it has provided updated apportioning for the breeding population of Gannets at Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA). However, the Apportioning Note, last updated at Deadline 1 [REP1-020], does not appear to include any update in this regard.

The Applicant should provide clarity on this matter and/or provide signposting for where the updated apportioning information for the gannet feature of the FFC SPA can be found within the submitted Examination documents.

## ***Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Measures***

### *For Natural England*

Natural England previously requested in [PD2-006] that the Applicant carries out significant amounts of on-site monitoring and engagement with local experts to establish a baseline for disturbance at the proposed compensation sites in the south west of England.

How far does the surveying work carried out in the 2024 breeding season, as reported on in [REP1-054], address Natural England's request? What remaining work, if any, do you consider would be required to address your concerns?

Responses should be submitted by **Deadline 5 (10 January 2025)**.

Yours faithfully

*Grahame Gould*

**Grahame Gould**  
**Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors**

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