



To:
Rampion Extension Development Limited

Ref: EN010117

6 February 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Application by Rampion Extension Development Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 6 August 2024, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 6 November 2024. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”), the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. On 25 November 2024, the Secretary of State wrote to several parties seeking further updates and information on various issues (“the first information request”). Responses were received on 6 December and 13 December 2024, before all Interested Parties were asked to comment on the information received by 13 January 2025.
3. On 6 February 2025, the Secretary of State decided to extend the statutory deadline to 4 April 2025. The extension has been confirmed in a statement to Parliament in accordance with section 107(7) of PA 2008.
4. Without prejudice to the Secretary of State’s final decision, the Secretary of State would be grateful if the **Applicant** could provide information as appropriate in response to the requests set out below.

Piling restrictions

5. The Secretary of State notes that the Applicant provided its views on the possible wording for a full seasonal piling restriction (March to July) in the Deemed Marine Licence (Condition 26) during the first information request. In its response dated 6

December 2024¹, the Applicant directed the Secretary of State to its Closing Statement [REP6-233]².

6. The Applicant's view was that a full seasonal piling restriction was unnecessary. However, during the Examination it also provided a without prejudice Stage 2 Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment for Kingmere MCZ with Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit³. Noting the criteria set out under section 126(7) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, **the Applicant** should provide evidence to support its position that there are no other means of proceeding which would create a substantially lower risk of hindering the achievement of Kingmere MCZ's objectives.
 7. In particular, the **Applicant** should provide further programme-level detail on the information at paragraph 5.8.13 of its Closing Statement. This should include a detailed explanation of the statement that there would be "an additional year or more of offshore installation activity", were a full seasonal piling restriction to be put in place. In providing this information the Applicant should provide as much detail as possible as to the years/months it anticipates the Proposed Development may be delayed by and why. The **Applicant** should provide detail as to why piling and other construction programming that would be proposed to take place during the months of March to July could not be re-programmed into the months outside of the restriction, in order to meet the same delivery timescales for the Proposed Development.
 8. The **Applicant** should also provide further specific detail to support the statements at paragraph 9.4 of its Closing Statement. This should include an explanation regarding the Applicant's assertion that further restrictions on piling activity could potentially lead to "ultimately preventing the delivery" of renewable energy supplies. If the **Applicant** is suggesting that any further restrictions on piling might affect the viability of the Proposed Development, then it should provide further information and evidence in relation to this.
- 9. Responses should be submitted by email only to rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 23.59 on 20 February 2025.**
10. Responses will be published on the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 20 February 2025.

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-002309-C1-028%20Applicant's%20Response%20to%20the%20Secretary%20of%20State's%20Request%20for%20Additional%20Information.pdf>

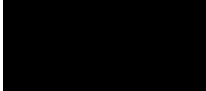
² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-002173-8.103%20Applicant's%20Closing%20Statement.pdf>

³ [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-002079-8.67%20Kingmere%20Marine%20Conservation%20Zone%20\(MCZ\)%20Without%20Prejudice%20Stage%202%20MCZ%20Assessment%20\(clean\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-002079-8.67%20Kingmere%20Marine%20Conservation%20Zone%20(MCZ)%20Without%20Prejudice%20Stage%202%20MCZ%20Assessment%20(clean).pdf)

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010117>

11. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Proposed Development 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,



John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Department of Energy Security & Net Zero