



Wendy McKay  
North Falls Lead Panel Member  
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Case Team  
Planning Inspectorate  
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(Email only)

MMO Reference: DCO/2021/00002  
Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010119  
Identification Number: 20051047

15 January 2025

Dear Wendy Mckay,

**[Planning Act 2008, Proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Project  
Response to Examining Authority's Rule 6 Letter](#)**

On 22 August 2024, the Marine Management Organisation (the "MMO") received notice under section 56 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "PA 2008") that the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS") had accepted an application made by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd, (the "Applicant") for determination of a development consent order for the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Project (the "DCO Application") (MMO ref: DCO/2021/00002; PINS ref: EN010119).

The DCO Application seeks authorisation for the construction, operation and maintenance of North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (the 'Project' or 'North Falls'): an offshore generation station with a capacity exceeding 100 megawatts (MW) comprising up to 57 wind turbine generators together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure and all associated development.

The MMO received a Rule 6 letter on 10 December 2024. Please find the MMO comments below;

- [1. Preliminary Meeting Attendance](#)**
- [2. Comments on Examination Timetable](#)**
- [3. Anything further required from Examination Authority](#)**
- [4. Responses to Relevant Representations](#)**
- [5. Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered Interested Parties](#)**
- [6. Notification of agreement of communications by email](#)**



This written representation is submitted without prejudice to any future representation the MMO may make about the DCO Application throughout the examination process. This representation is also submitted without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make on any associated application for consent, permission, approval or any other type of authorisation submitted to the MMO either for the works in the marine area or for any other authorisation relevant to the proposed development.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Amy Musker-Heaton

Marine Licensing Case Officer

[Redacted contact information]

[\[Redacted\]@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@marinemanagement.org.uk)

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## **1. Preliminary Meeting Attendance**

- 1.1 The MMO will not be attending the Preliminary Meeting on 28 January 2025. The MMO has reviewed the draft timetable for the examination of the application and would like to highlight the following concerns for consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) in Section 2 of this response.

## **2. Comments on Examination Timetable**

- 2.1 The MMO notes that the Examination is principally a written process. The MMO understands that some issues need to be discussed in person to ensure understanding by the ExA. At this stage, the MMO is not planning on attending any Issue Specific Hearing (ISH), however will keep a watching brief and respond to any questions posed by the ExA on completion of the ISH. This is to ensure resource is spent on providing detailed written responses and resolving any issues with the Applicant.
- 2.2 If the ExA requests MMO attendance for an ISH, the MMO would ask that hearings are organised to minimise the need for the MMO to be in attendance for all hearings. (e.g. discussing both offshore matters and onshore matters). In addition to this, the MMO would welcome any discussions on the DML or offshore DCO sections to be discussed at the earliest opportunity within the agenda. For example, in East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two, the agenda was rearranged to enable MMO involvement at the start of the hearing. This would enable better time utilisation allowing for a more efficient and effective examination.
- 2.3 In relation to Deadline 2 and 3, the MMO notes that only two weeks is between each deadline and would question why a Statement of Common Ground would be required at Deadline 1 and Deadline 2, and requests that this is moved to Deadline 3 or 4.
- 2.4 The MMO would highlight that they are part of a high number of examinations in relation to offshore matters and this is resource intensive and would request that, as North Falls has not started yet, the ExA is mindful of other project deadlines to allow for a few days in between and less overlap with these deadlines.
- 2.5 In addition to this the MMO is currently staggering consultation advice with our scientific advisors, therefore if there are short turnaround times such as two weeks within the examination timetable the MMO is unlikely to be able to provide an update on all topics at each deadline. We will let you know in each deadline response what will follow in a future deadline.
- 2.6 With the above in mind, it would be welcomed if Deadline 2 could be moved until week commencing 18 or 27 March and subsequently Deadline 4 becomes Deadline 3 and so on.
- 2.7 Deadline 4 currently falls directly after a bank holiday weekend, and it would be welcomed if this could be moved to the following week, beginning 28 April.
- 2.8 Deadline 5 falls within a bank holiday week so it would be welcomed if this could be moved to the Thursday or Friday of the same week.
- 2.9 Deadline 7 and 8 are currently one week apart. Although the MMO would be hopeful that any issues have been resolved at this point, the MMO would welcome Deadline 7 being slightly earlier but does note this is likely to allow time to respond to any ExA requests on 1 July.

## **3. Further requests from the Examination Authority**

- 3.1 The MMO notes that the ExA has requested Summaries of Relevant Representations that exceed 1500 words at Pre-examination Procedural Deadline. Due to resourcing issues the MMO will provide a summary of Relevant Representation at Deadline 1.
- 3.2 The MMO has not yet been provided with a copy of the Applicant's draft Statement of Common Ground. The MMO will review the draft when this is provided and is aiming to provide comments. However, due to the stage of the project and lack of engagement from the Applicant the MMO is not sure if this will be in time for Deadline 1 and will make this clear within our Deadline 1 response.

#### **4. Responses to Relevant Representations**

The MMO has reviewed the Relevant Representations (RR) submitted, specifically:

##### **4.1 Corporation of Trinity House of Deptford Strand**

The MMO maintains a watching brief on the response from this Interested Party (IP)

##### **4.2 Historic England**

The MMO will review the comments on the RR provided by the Applicant and provide overall comments at Deadline 1.

##### **4.3 Maritime and Coastguard Agency**

The MMO maintains a watching brief on the response from this IP.

##### **4.4 Natural England**

The MMO will review the comments on the RR provided by the Applicant and provide overall comments at Deadline 1.

##### **4.5 National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)**

The MMO will review the comments on the RR provided by the Applicant and provide overall comments at Deadline 1.

##### **4.6 Essex Wildlife Trust (Essex Wildlife Trust)**

The MMO will review the comments on the RR provided by the Applicant and provide overall comments at Deadline 1.

##### **4.7 UK Chamber of Shipping**

The MMO maintains a watching brief on the response from this IP.

#### **5. Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered Interested Parties**

- 5.1 The MMO wish to be considered an Interested Party by the ExA.

#### **6. Notification of agreement of communications by email**

- 6.1 The following people request future correspondence to be received electronically

6.1.1 [REDACTED] [@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@marinemanagement.org.uk)

6.1.2 [REDACTED] [@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@marinemanagement.org.uk)

6.1.3 [REDACTED] [@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@marinemanagement.org.uk)

Yours Sincerely,



Amy Musker-Heaton

Marine Licensing Case Officer

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