



The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Contact: Tracy Clift
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Date: 11th August 2022

Dear Sirs,

Re: Morgan and Morecambe Bay Offshore Wind Farm Scoping Opinions with non-prescribed consultation bodies

It has recently come to our attention that the Secretary of State has issued both the Scoping Opinions for the proposed Morgan and Morecambe Bay offshore windfarms. It is regrettable that on this occasion the Isle of Man Government (as a non-prescribed consultation body) did not have the opportunity to review and comment on the request for Scoping Opinion for either of these projects. The Planning Inspectorate has on a number of previous times invited the Isle of Man Government to comment on such applications made on projects which have the potential to impact the Isle of Man, however on this occasion, no formal correspondence has been received. For future reference in respect of all of the proposed R4 offshore windfarms (and any other projects that have the potential to impact the Isle of Man), the Territorial Sea Committee request that a hard copy of the consultation letter is supplied to the address listed in this correspondence, including it being sent electronically to territorialsea@gov.im

As you will be aware from previous correspondence in respect of proposed offshore windfarm projects, the Territorial Seas Committee (TSC) is made up of representatives of a number of Departments and Statutory Boards of the Isle of Man Government and a combined response is submitted for each of these projects.

The TSC has considered both the request for a scoping opinion and the subsequent adopted scoping opinion. It was a useful and interesting document and we await the associated outcomes and future opportunity to comment as the project advances. The TSC is of the opinion that the Isle of Man should be identified as one of the main stakeholders given the proximity to the Manx territorial limits and the impact either of these proposed offshore windfarms could have on the Island, particularly Morgan.

The Adopted Scoping Opinion provides a good overview of what will be undertaken as part of the early stages of this project. The TSC is satisfied from the information in these documents that all international environmental standards and best practice will be adhered to when undertaking the collection and analysis of the data obtained from within the proposed development area, and will ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place to address any concerns identified throughout the Environmental Assessments process. The TSC also acknowledges the recent outcome of TCE's Habitats Regulations Assessment for these sites. As with previous correspondence in respect of adjacent offshore windfarm projects, your attention is drawn to the protection afforded to the Island's habitats, and species. Whilst not identified as European designated sites, the level of protection to habitats and species is on a level with those designated under European Directives, and as such, it is essential that Manx protected sites are included within the preparation of the EIA.

Whilst the Isle of Man is not a member of the EU and is therefore not directly covered by most European directives, the Isle of Man still follows relevant European environmental safeguards and expects best practice to be followed. The Isle of Man also meets its obligations under both the Bonn and the Bern Conventions, via statutory instruments, specifically the Wildlife Act 1990. As part of this, the TSC would

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request that appropriate consideration is given to the species which are protected under this Act, and ensure that there are no detrimental impacts on these species as part of this proposed project. In addition, the same would be requested in respect of the marine protected sites and the manner in which these are designated and managed, including any transboundary impacts arising from the project.

It is noted that the cumulative effects will be thoroughly investigated. However, of particular importance and concern would be the habitats and species found within Isle of Man waters, particularly those protected under Manx law¹ or identified as threatened or declining by the OSPAR Convention, and which may be affected by the proposed developments. Any marine developments within or adjacent to the Isle of Man territorial waters could potentially impact commercial fisheries in Manx waters so it would be appreciated if the relevant fishing organisations on the island were included as consultees via the appointed Fisheries Liaison Officer.

The above proposals also have the possibility for potential trans-boundary impacts on Manx land/seascapes and the TSC would particularly like to ensure that the impacts on wildlife/habitat conservation and fisheries in Manx waters are fully considered within the scope of this assessment developments. We would request that the impact on infrastructure and transport activities, including but not limited to, Manx shipping and navigation and aviation interests, including airport radar issues are also fully considered.

Ørsted proposed offshore windfarm Agreement for Lease

The TSC wishes to point out that there is an AfL with Ørsted for an offshore windfarm within Isle of Man territorial waters, something which will need to be taken into account as part of this EIA. Details of this can for forwarded if requested.

Crogga Hydrocarbon site

The Department of Infrastructure has issued a Seaward Production Innovate Licence to Crogga Limited in respect of the hydrocarbon block 112/25. This licence commenced on 1st January 2019. Again, the TSC would draw this to your attention to this site and requests it is taken into account as part of this EIA. Details of this can for forwarded if requested.

Marine Navigation

As an island nation, any significant risk of interference with marine navigation is of concern to the TSC with regard to transport to and from the island, and the shipping lanes in our Territorial waters which are used to connect the UK and Ireland. These are strategic, lifeline routes that the Island depends on and it is essential that these are not impacted upon as part of these proposals, particularly Morgan. The economy of the Island is highly reliant on the regular, safe shipping for its goods, and any deviations from well established timetables and routes would not support the Island's business community relying on daily deliveries via the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company.

The TSC is particularly concerned about the cumulative impacts from all of the proposed windfarms awarded as part of The Crown Estate's Round 4 project, and would want to see this fully taken into account as part of this EIA. It is noted that for both the proposed offshore windfarms, shipping and navigation has been identified, particularly with the proposed Morgan site – this has the greatest potential to impact the shipping and navigation for the Island, and is of great concern. It is essential that the Island's shipping companies, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company and other shipping companies are continuously engaged throughout this process.

Ronaldsway Airport

The TSC welcomes that the main areas which would concern Ronaldsway Airport are being taken into account as part of the EIA, and would welcome continued dialogue between the relevant project teams and the Airport.

¹ Wildlife Act 1990 (http://www.legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1990/1990-0002/WildlifeAct1990_2.pdf)

Data Sources

The TSC would draw the applicant's attention to the Manx Marine Environmental Assessment² (MMEA) which provides a useful overview of the Island's marine environment and should be taken into account as part of both the transboundary and possibly also the cumulative impacts assessment as part of this application. More detail can be provided in respect of any areas of the MMEA should that be required.

The TSC would welcome the opportunity for continued involvement in the process particularly once the preparation of the PEIRs have been completed and we will undertake a full review of the information being presented at that time for each of the projects.

Should you require any further information or clarification on any of the contents of this response, then please do not hesitate to contact myself, and I can raise any items with the members of the TSC.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Emily Curphey
Chair, Territorial Seas Committee

² <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/infrastructure/harbours-information/territorial-seas/manx-marine-environmental-assessment/>