

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

By Email only to: heckingtonfensolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Mr Wheadon

8 January 2025

Heckington Fen Solar Park Development Consent Order (application reference: EN010123)

Following our communications last year, we improved our offer to The Crown Estate in December 2024 to 'meet in the middle'. The Crown Estate replied earlier this week to inform us that this new offer remains unacceptable. To ensure a decision can be taken on 24 January 2025, we will be continuing discussions with a view to agreeing commercial terms by 20 January 2025.

The draft legal agreement has been requested from The Crown Estate to enable the legal completion to run in tandem with this discussion and completed in time. A further update will be provided to DESNZ on 21 January 2025.

Separately we can confirm that the Section 106 Agreement with the Local Planning Authorities has now completed. We are also making progress with the landowner interest group, but we will not be able to progress all land through voluntary agreements, which is in line with expectations. Terms with several commercial parties have been agreed, and we understand Network Rail will now remove their objection to the proposed development.

Yours sincerely,

Laura White
Project Manager
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