

Yr Ref EN010130  
22 March 2024  
By email only to  
OuterDowsingOffshoreWind@planninginsp  
ectorate.gov.uk

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (As Amended) – Section 53**

**Application by Total Energies and Corio Generation for an Order Granting Development Consent Order for Outer Dowsing Wind (Generating Station)**

Thank you for your letter dated 20 March 2024 requesting a response from Lincolnshire County Council on the adequacy of consultation for the above project. Taking into consideration the requirements of Section 42 (Duty to Consult), Section 47 (Duty to consult the local community) and Section 48 (Duty to publicise) of the Planning Act 2008 (As Amended) the Council confirms that the developer has carried out adequate pre-application consultation in accordance with the provisions set out in Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act.

The applicant commenced early engagement with the Council in September 2022. Regular meetings with the Head of Planning together with technical working group meetings including landscape, highways, cultural heritage and public health have taken place throughout the pre-application stage up until the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application in March 2024. Two Councillor engagement briefings have taken place with County Councillors. The first prior to non-statutory consultation with local Councillors within or close to the application site together with the Executive Councillor and Support Councillor for Planning. A face-to-face briefing took place with Planning and Regulation Councillors and other interested Councillors at the start of the statutory consultation phase in the summer of 2023.

The applicant conducted a period of non-statutory engagement in Autumn 2022. The Council responded to the EIA Scoping Opinion request from the Planning Inspectorate and raised a number of issues which required additional information. The applicant consulted the Council on the draft Statement of Community Consultation document in summer 2022.

The Council raised the following points in response to this consultation: -

“Consider also including “raising awareness” of the project as one of the aims. Also consider an aim showing how the proposals have taken account of consultation.

‘Hard to reach groups’ This phrase can cause offence, as groups may be seldom heard rather than hard to reach. Consider using the phrase “seldom heard groups” instead. Consider offering a call back service / out of working hours time to call for those working / with other commitments during these times. Consider also requesting that other bodies share the information on their social media channels and other media platforms.

In response to the final version of the SoCC the Council commented

“Good to see that they have adapted their SoCC to reflect the suggested additions and changes.

To address the point of identifying stakeholders that fit into the seldom heard category, we don’t hold any specific information we can share on this.

We can sign post ODOW to the information sources we would use and would expect them to do the stakeholder identification.

The websites links for Connect to Support Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire FSD are publicly open sources of information and will help in identifying groups.

However, they are not aimed at locating seldom heard voices. “

The Council confirms that the Consultation Report and Appendices (March 2024) meet the requirements of Section 49 of the 2008 Act. However, amongst the suite of Appendices it is noted that Appendix 5.1.13 Other Community Engagement Social Media Report is missing detail and contains a number of ‘Errors’ in the contents page.

Notwithstanding this the Consultation documents set out the full consultation programme undertaken by the applicant and the Council is satisfied that the applicant has undertaken an extensive and inclusive consultation programme in respect of their project.

I therefore confirm that the County Council considers that Outer Dowsing Wind has undertaken adequate pre-application consultation pursuant to Sections 42,47 and 48 of the 2008 Planning Act.

I trust this is helpful to you.

Yours faithfully



**Head of Planning**