

Mona Offshore Wind Farm DCO
Blackpool Airport's Responses to ExQ2
3 December 2024

Ref.	Question	Response
ExQ 2.3.1	<p>Mitigation of effects on the Blackpool Airport Minimum Sector Altitude (MSA) Without prejudice to the ongoing safeguarding assessment, does the Airport agree with the Applicant's position that raising the MSA from 2000ft to 2200ft is likely to be the appropriate mitigation for the Mona project?</p>	<p>The Airport confirms that it is expecting a change to the MSA from 2000 to 2200ft to be included in the 5-year review. Subject to the CAA approving the 5-year review, the Airport confirms that this change is likely to mitigate the impacts of the Mona project (and other related OWF projects) on Blackpool Airport's existing MSA. Notwithstanding this, the Airport will require a further safeguarding assessment to be undertaken post-approval of the 5-year review. The further safeguarding assessment will take into account: (a) any changes included within the 5-year review which have not been approved by the CAA; and (b) any currently unanticipated impacts of the Mona project on Blackpool Airport. The Airport is considering whether the further safeguarding assessment should be secured by the Mona DCO, and intends to confirm its position by Deadline 6 subject to discussions with the Applicant.</p>
ExQ 2.3.2	<p>Mitigation of effects on the Blackpool Airport MSA At ISH4, the Applicant reported that Blackpool Airport's safeguarding assessment is ongoing and that there is a risk that the outcome of the review will not be finalised before this Examination must close. In the scenario that the required mitigation for the Mona project cannot be secured by the end of this Examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the Statement of Common Ground or a Closing Submission at Deadline 7 to set out in full the status of the Airport's safeguarding assessment as it is relevant to the Proposed Development; 	<p>The Airport confirms that it is unlikely that the 5-year review will be approved by the CAA by the end of this Examination. The 5-year review is being undertaken by the Airport's aviation consultants, Cyrrus. The 5-year review is due to be received by the Airport this week (i.e. w/c 2 December). Upon receipt, the Airport will review the 5-year review, and then will submit it to the CAA at the earliest opportunity. The CAA timelines are uncertain, but it is unlikely that CAA approval will be obtained before the close of this Examination on 16 January 2025. The Airport confirms that it will provide an update on the status of the 5-year review submission at Deadline 7 along with its position regarding how the further safeguarding assessment (referred to in response to Q2.3.1) is proposed to be secured.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide the expected timescales for final agreement on mitigation of effects of the Proposed Development on the Airport's MSA; and • identify any impediments to putting in place the required mitigation. 	
ExQ 2.3.3	<p>Potential interference to communications with aircraft operating at low level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand on the matters raised in SoCG [REP3-030], ref BA.AR.13 regarding potential interference to communications with aircraft operating at low level. • Do you seek additional controls from the Mona project in this regard? 	<p>The Airport has received the Mona VHF comms assessment undertaken by the Applicant's consultants, Osprey. The Airport is liaising internally and with its consultants, Cyrrus, regarding the approach to, and scope of, carrying out an operational assessment of the Osprey findings. Cyrrus are also carrying out an assessment of impacts on VHF comms and DF (Direction Finding) equipment on a cumulative basis (i.e. taking into account the Mona project cumulatively with other nearby projects currently going through the DCO process, namely Morgan and Morecambe OWFs). To the extent Cyrrus's review/assessment work concludes that there are impacts which need to be mitigated, Cyrrus will be suggesting appropriate mitigations. However, the Airport has been informed by Cyrrus that the review/assessment work is unlikely to be completed by the end of this Examination. The Airport is therefore considering whether any controls should be secured by the Mona DCO, and intends to confirm its position by Deadline 6 subject to discussions with the Applicant.</p>