

Planning Inspectorate Examination EN010137: Mona Offshore Wind

**Cefn Meiriadog Community Council
MNOW-ISP002**

Deadline 7, 14 December 2024

Response of Cefn Meiriadog Community Council to the ExA's Rule 17 letter (request for further information, dated 20 December 2024), addressed to the Applicant and National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

1. Without presuming to discuss the detail, Cefn Meiriadog Community Council (CMCC) holds that the issues raised are fundamentally a symptom of the congestion resulting from several projects seeking to locate in the same restricted area, and that an important further manifestation of this is the IGP proposal to site a BESS in the area of concern.

2. The Applicant declined to engage with the ExA's question Q2.0.2 in ExQ2, regarding the proposed IGP BESS development, on the grounds that "Cumulative impact assessments can only be undertaken on information that is within the public domain... To allow any cumulative assessment to be undertaken, key parameters of the project (e.g. location, size) would have to be available in the public domain".

3. Those "key parameters" have now been supplied to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) as part of a request for a Scoping Direction (Ref: <https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/> - Search for CAS-03950-F9K3T4). They have in turn been supplied to Denbighshire County Council (<https://developments.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=125565>) and submitted to CMCC for the Council to comment by 17 January 2025.

4. It will immediately be understood from the documentation provided to PEDW and DCC that both the NGET extension and the Applicant's proposals are significantly impacted by IGP's proposals for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated cabling and infrastructure. The BESS proposal is on land immediately adjacent to the Applicant's substation site and actually overlapping with the area designated by NGET as for their extension, which, NGET have stated, must go ahead if the additional power generated by the Mona project is to be accommodated. It will also be understood that the construction periods for all three projects will necessarily overlap, and also with the consented Awel y Môr project.

5. While it is clearly not within the bounds of possibility that the strategic masterplanning approach called for by the Design Commission for Wales in its submission to the Examination, and by common sense, will play any part in the decision-making around these issues, it is nevertheless essential for the survival of the community of Cefn Meiriadog that some form of coordinated approach is taken that takes into account not simply the interests of the parties seeking to further their various development proposals, but also the community in which they are situated and which is critically affected by them.

Cefn Meiriadog Community Council
5 January 2025