

Grŵp Yr Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol
Economy, Skills and Natural Resources Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

27 January 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

North Wales Wind Farms Connection Project Proposed Development Consent Order

I am writing in connection with the examination of the Development Consent Order (DCO), in respect of the application under the Planning Act 2008 for SP Manweb's North Wales Wind Farms Connection (NWWFC) project. I understand that you recently invited comments on the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES). My apologies that this letter has reached you after the closure of the deadline for comments, but I would be grateful if you could consider it within the examination.

The report references a concern raised by Welsh Government at the formal pre-application stage, regarding the impact of the NWWFC project on Greenland White fronted Geese, a feature of the Dyfi Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) (a European Site). Welsh Government has not submitted a response since then, and NRW has expressed the view that they were satisfied that there was not likely to be a significant effect on GWfG or any other European site or feature.

In order that the review can be completely clear as to the views of Welsh Government, I am providing this response, after consultation with the Welsh Government's Nature and Conservation Branch. Although there is some uncertainty regarding GWFG flightlines, we are now funding research to tag geese and monitor their movements. In light of this ongoing research, we are content to concur with the views expressed by NRW that we do not consider that the project is likely to have a significant effect on the Dyfi Estuary SPA and we consider that the proposed development would be unlikely to have significant effects on

European sites alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Therefore we do not advocate an additional requirement to fit diverters on the overhead line in order to make it more visible to birds.

Thanks you again for your consideration of this response.

Jennifer Pride

Pennaeth y Tim Ynni Adnewyddadwy / Head of Renewable Energy Team

Is-adran Ynni, Dŵr a Llifogydd / Energy, Water and Flood Division

Yr Adran Cyfoeth Naturiol /Department for Natural Resources

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government