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Joan Edwards
The Wildlife Trusts
The Kiln
Waterside
Mather Road
Newark NG2 1WT

Our Ref:

Date: 6 July 2017

Dear Ms Edwards,

Guidance on MCZ assessment for Nationally Infrastructure Projects

Thank you for your letter of 24 April 2017 expressing your concerns.

We are aware of the response that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has made in response to your queries; the Planning Inspectorate endorses that response.

If an application for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure is accepted for examination, the Examining Authority will review the evidence relating to Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) submitted by the Applicant and Interested Parties, including the advice from the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body. If necessary, the Examining Authority will address further questions to the Applicant and Interested Parties, with a view to ensuring that the relevant Secretary of State has sufficient evidence available to them to discharge their duties under sections 125 and 126 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Examining Authority will make recommendations on matters relating to MCZs in their report to the Secretary of State.

With regard to an advice note in relation to MCZ assessments, the Planning Inspectorate does not have plans to produce a note at present but will keep this situation under review.

Yours sincerely

Simone Wilding

Simone Wilding
Head of Major Casework Management

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the National Infrastructure Planning website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.