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Our Ref: EN010130

To:

GT R4 Ltd (Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm)

Natural England

Marine Management Organisation

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

Ministry of Defence

Perenco UK Limited

National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations

Ørsted

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

T.H. Clements & Son Ltd

Brown & Co Property and Business Consultants LLP

Lincolnshire County Council

**Defence Infrastructure Organisation** 

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Date: 12 August 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by GT R4 Ltd ("the Applicant") for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm ("the Proposed Development")

#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- 1. Following the completion of the Examination on 10 April 2025, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 10 July 2025. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
- 2. There are matters on which the Secretary of State requests updates or information from the Applicant, Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation ("MMO"), the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs ("DEFRA"), the Ministry of Defence ("MoD"), the Defence Infrastructure Organisation ("DIO"), Lincolnshire County Council ("LCC"), Ørsted, the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations ("NFFO"), Perenco UK Limited, the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority ("EIFCA"), Galahad Ltd, T.H. Clements & Son Ltd, and Brown & Co Property and Business Consultants LLP.

#### Substation design and landscaping

3. The Secretary of State notes that during the application phase and throughout the examination phase, the Applicant did not have substantial plans regarding the design of its onshore substation. The **Applicant** is requested to provide an update on the design of the onshore substation, including any updated plans and photomontages or other visualisations, and an updated assessment on the seascape and landscape visual impact the onshore substation will have on the Lincolnshire Coastline.

#### Benthic ecology, intertidal, subtidal and coastal effects

- 4. **Natural England** is invited to comment on D6 amendments to the Scour Protection and Cable Protection Management Plan ("SPCPMP") [REP6-076] and Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan ("CSIP") [REP6-062], including:
  - The addition of Table 3-2 in the SPCPMP [REP6-076] / Table 5-1 in the CSIP [REP6-062]; and
  - Whether these amendments, alongside the inclusion of the proposed wording [REP6-145] for Condition 21 satisfy NE's concerns ([REP6-154], C – Benthic & Intertidal Ecology, pt 1&2) related to securing the Worst Case Scenario for the amount of Sabellaria spinulosa supporting habitat likely to be impacted by the Export Cable Corridor.
- 5. The Secretary of State notes the Written Ministerial Statement of 29 January 2025¹ commits to designating / extending Marine Protected Areas ("MPAs") to compensate for likely environmental effects of offshore wind developments. The Interim Guidance² further advises that, prior to the Marine Recovery Fund ("MRF") being operational, Applicants should work closely with Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies ("SNCBs") and DEFRA to determine whether the MPA measure could provide appropriate compensation. Whilst acknowledging that the MRF is not yet operational and any subsequent application to use the MRF would be considered by DEFRA at the time, **DEFRA** is invited to advise whether the Proposed Development and its impacts are of a type which could in-principle be compensated by the MPA measure delivered through the MRF. This is the Applicant's preferred approach to compensation for Annex 1 Reef and Annex 1 Sandbank habitat, as outlined in its 'Without Prejudice' Benthic Compensation Evidence Base and Road Map [REP6-040].
- 6. The **Applicant** is requested to update the wording of the Post-Construction Monitoring Proposal in table 3.1 of the 8.03 Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan [REP6-054] to include a stronger commitment to further surveys (e.g. further surveys *will* be required....), if data from the first post-construction survey does not indicate full recovery of bedforms following sandwave clearance and cable installation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2025-01-29/hcws394

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance

- 7. The Secretary of State notes that in response to the Examining Authority's Rule 17 question on 'use of a fall pipe' for the disposal of dredge sediment in the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Natural England have advised [REP6-155] that without the use of a fall pipe/down pipe "sandwave levelling as a mitigation measure is likely to have HRA issues in its own right" and also that this measure has been adopted by the Five Estuary Offshore Wind Farm for sediment disposal in the Margate and Long Sands SAC:
  - Noting the **Applicant's** concerns about the suitability of this approach for its project [REP5-149], it is invited to provide evidenced, project-specific, reasoning why it is unable to commit to use of a fall pipe/down pipe.
  - Natural England is invited to provide further detail on the implications for an Adverse Effect on the Integrity of the IDRBNR SAC, if the Applicant is unable to use a fall pipe/down pipe.
- 8. The Secretary of State notes the Applicant's commitment [REP6-104] that nearshore cable protection height will not exceed 0.35m, but this does not appear to be reflected in SPCPMP and the CSIP as suggested in [REP6-104]. To ensure the Maximum Design Scenario is accurately secured, the **Applicant** is requested to update the parameters of the nearshore cable protection outlined within the SPCPMP and CSIP documents, to specify the 0.35m maximum height of concrete mattresses.
- 9. The Secretary of State notes that in [REP6-159] Natural England advocated for more detailed bathymetric and modelling data to help understand the potential impacts to the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge ("IDRBNR") Special Area of Conservation ("SAC") from changes to marine physical processes caused by construction of the Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform's ("ORCPs") and that without this an Adverse Effect on the Integrity of IDRBNR SAC cannot be ruled out. Without prejudice to the Secretary of State's conclusions on impact, Natural England is requested to advise how an appropriate compensation quantum could be calculated if this data is not available and the Adverse Effect cannot be excluded.
- 10. The **Applicant** is requested to consider the proposed mitigation and need for additional monitoring and modelling presented by Natural England in [REP6-159] in relation to impacts on marine physical processes from construction of the ORCPs and to present options to include this within its proposals.

#### Offshore infrastructure

- 11. At Deadline 6, Natural England noted that the removal of the Galahad gas platform topsides and monopod, due to take place in 2026, may overlap with the construction of the Proposed Development. The **Applicant** and **relevant IPs of the Galahad gas platform** are invited to comment on Natural England's submission [REP6-146].
- 12. The Secretary of State notes that at the close of examination, the radii for communications corridors for helicopters, marine access and LOS microwave

- communications were a point of contention between the Applicant and Perenco UK Limited. **Perenco UK Limited** and the **Applicant** are invited to comment if both parties are satisfied with the 50m radius as stated in the Applicant's closing statement [REP6-121].
- 13. The Secretary of State notes from the Ørsted IP's closing statement [REP6-135], that the Applicant sent a cooperation agreement to Ørsted regarding protective provisions. **Ørsted IPs** and the **Applicant** are invited to provide an update on whether agreement has been reached on the protective provisions.

# Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology

# **Artificial Nesting Sites ("ANS")**

- 14. The Secretary of State notes that two Areas of Search ("AoS") are presented for ANS [REP6-049] but that some engineering constraints were excluded from the selection process. The **Applicant** is requested to provide an indicative shortlist of possible locations for ANS and confirm these are technically deliverable.
- 15. The Secretary of State notes that the North-West AoS proposed for ANS overlaps with the Hornsea Four AoS [REP6-049]. He also notes that "overlap with existing colonies" is a key consideration when defining optimal locations for ANS to "minimise competition for resources with birds from existing colonies" [REP6-049]. The **Applicant** is requested to provide evidence that the proximity to the Hornsea Four AoS would not affect the success of an ANS constructed in the North-West AoS.
- 16. The **Applicant** is requested to produce design concept sketches for the ANS. The **Applicant** is requested to produce one design concept for a ANS designed solely for kittiwake, and a second design for an ANS designed for mixed use between kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill.
- 17. The Secretary of State notes discrepancies highlighted by Natural England [REP6-151] in relation to the nesting density used to calculate the number of pairs of Guillemot per nesting unit (20 per nesting unit of 1m x 1m [PD1-071] vs. 20 pairs per nesting unit of 1m x 30cm Table 4.1 in [REP4-062]). The **Applicant** is requested to confirm the correct values and amend these across all control documents.
- 18. Without Prejudice to the number of lead-in years to be decided by the Secretary of State, the **Applicant** is requested to provide a potential indicative timeline for the implementation of ANS in the scenario of a 3-year lead-in implementation. The **Applicant** is also requested to include an indicative timeline for the implementation of ANS which include provisions for Guillemot and Razorbill.

# <u>Predator Eradication in Jersey (Plémont Seabird Sanctuary) as Compensation for Guillemot and Razorbill</u>

19. The Secretary of State notes concerns raised by Natural England [REP6-151] in relation to the theoretical merit of proposed predator control measures in Jersey to deliver compensation for auks, particularly for guillemot. As the reasons for the loss

- of nesting Guillemot is uncertain, the **Applicant** is requested to provide further evidence and quantify the potential of the site for Guillemot and Razorbill, by conducting a more detailed analysis of the potential nesting habitat for these species that is currently accessible to rats and other predators.
- 20. To understand the theoretical potential for this measure to compensate for impacts to the UK National Site Network, the **Applicant** is also requested to provide an indication of the recruitment rates of Guillemot and Razorbill offspring, from the potential nesting habitat into to the UK National Site Network.
- 21. The Secretary of State notes concerns raised by Natural England [REP6-151] in relation to the technical feasibility of excluding predators from the fenced area on an ongoing basis. The **Applicant** is therefore requested to update its Predator Control Evidence Base and Roadmap Document [REP6-050] to include:
  - wider predator control measures to reduce predator numbers across the coastline adjacent to the whole Seabird Protection Zone, with particular focus on inhabited areas within an inland 'buffer zone' alongside the fence;
  - predator control in areas adjacent to the rest of the stretch of cliffs that will not be subject to fencing;
  - further information regarding the locations of the ends of the fences, and how these have been selected with regard to topography of the cliffs and intertidal area.
- 22. The Secretary of State notes concerns raised by Natural England [REP6-151] in relation to the scale of the proposed predator control measures to deliver compensation for auks; particularly for guillemot. The **Applicant** is requested to provide justification for why its predator eradication scheme in Plémont has reduced in size and scope from that which was assessed in the Plémont Sea Bird Reserve Feasibility Study Report [APP-258]. Furthermore, it is requested to provide further detail on the number of suitable nesting habitats that could be provided by the Plémont measure.
- 23. The Secretary of State notes concerns raised by Natural England [REP6-151] in relation to the long-term implementation and management of the proposed predator control measures in Jersey to deliver compensation for auks, particularly for guillemot. The **Applicant** is requested to provide further detail on the management of the Plémont site post fence construction, including the levels of resource available to ensure the biosecurity of the site. Furthermore, the **Applicant** is requested to submit the "Plémont Seabird Sanctuary Project 2024 Biodiversity Report" to the Secretary of State, and further details as to the specific monitoring that will be carried out post consent, including the frequency of any surveys to be undertaken.

## Additional Measures in the South-West as Compensation for Guillemot and Razorbill

24. The Secretary of State notes concerns raised by Natural England [REP6-151] in relation to Additional Measures in the South-West as compensation for impacts to

Guillemot and Razorbill populations and therefore has the following requests for the **Applicant**:

- There is some uncertainty over the technical feasibility of the proposed measures to reduce anthropogenic disturbance
  - o It is unclear whether the feasibility of implementing these measures has been discussed with all the relevant statutory bodies. The **Applicant** is requested to provide further detail on other consents and permits required to deliver these measures and whether likelihood of securing these has been discussed with the relevant bodies.
  - The **Applicant** is requested to provide further information on the potential for technology such as the use of drones or remote cameras to facilitate monitoring.
- In light of concerns related to the scale/extent of the measure the **Applicant** is requested to extend the 'active' period for disturbance reduction to include March and April, in order to account for pre-laying attendance at colonies.
- As the timing of the measure may be affected by the need for a 'test phase', the
   Applicant is requested to consider the need for a longer lead-in time than the
   current 2027 proposal.
- As a clear baseline will be needed to evaluate the success of the proposed measures, the Applicant is requested to provide the results of the 2025 monitoring, update proposals in line with the findings and consider the need for further monitoring/additional approaches such as:
  - Those approaches outlined in Walsh *et al.* (1995)<sup>3</sup>;
  - Boat-based surveys and/or alternative methods such as drones.
- 25. The Secretary of State understands that the Applicant intends to deliver this compensation method in partnership with other offshore windfarms. The **Applicant** is requested to provide any updates that have been made on this partnership since the close of examination.

Strategic Compensation Measures in the Isles of Scilly for Guillemot and Razorbill

26. **DEFRA** is invited to provide an update on any progress that has been made by the Isles of Scilly Task and Finish Group on the collaborative approach to Guillemot and Razorbill compensation in the Isles of Scilly. In particular, the quantification of compensation that is due to be created.

#### Other Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology

27. **Natural England** commented in [REP6-151] that it had commissioned a report by the British Trust of Ornithology, on behalf of the Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation, to critically review current compensation techniques. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Walsh, P.M., Halley, D.J., Harris, M.P., del Nevo, A., Sim, I.M.W., & Tasker, M.L. 1995. Seabird monitoring handbook for Britain and Ireland. JNCC / RSPB / ITE / Seabird Group, Peterborough.

Secretary of State invites Natural England to confirm whether the recently published Rhoades *et al.*, (2025)<sup>4</sup>, is the report that it discussed in its submission. If this is the paper in question, Natural England is invited to comment on the findings of paper, and any relevant conclusions which it considers apply to this Proposed Development.

- 28. To align with Condition 25, Part 2, Schedule 11 of the DCO, the **Applicant** is requested to update 8.13 Schedule of Mitigation [REP5-124] to include the 2km SPA buffer in relation to seasonal restriction on works in the Greater Wash SPA.
- 29. The Secretary of State notes colony sizes referenced for Kittiwake, Guillemot and Razorbill at Flamborough and Filey Coast ("FFC") Special Protection Area ("SPA") within 7.7.4 Offshore Artificial Nesting Structures Evidence Base and Roadmap [REP6-048] do not appear to represent the full SPA population counts from 2022<sup>5</sup>. The **Applicant** is requested to review these values and update across all relevant documents as necessary.
- 30. The Secretary of State also notes that table 12.69 of [REP4a-011] contains incorrect values for razorbill mortality under the 5% mortality rate column. The **Applicant** is requested to correct these values.
- 31. The Secretary of State further notes the previous inclusion of incorrect values within in-combination assessments for offshore ornithology and possible remaining discrepancies ([REP6-154], F Offshore & Intertidal Ornithology, pt 29). Considering this alongside the presence of other errors in final submission documents, as highlighted above, the **Applicant** is requested to review all other ornithology values and underpinning calculations within its final submitted documents to:
  - Ensure the correct values are used to inform these and that they are represented accurately; and
  - Where any are found to be incorrect, the Applicant is requested to amend these
    across all relevant documents and submit these alongside a log of all updates.
    The Secretary of State notes that some of the Applicant's assessments [AS1040], as superseded by [REP4a-011], were calculated using different
    parameters from those advocated by Natural England. Therefore, the Applicant
    is requested to submit a revised assessment of the cumulative effects for great
    black-backed gull based on Natural England's methodology.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Rhoades, J., Johnston, D.T., Humphreys, E.M. & Boersch-Supan, P.H. 2025. Review of methods used to calculate scale of artificial nesting structures proposed as a compensation measure for Kittiwake mortality at offshore wind farms. *BTO Research Report* 788: British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford, UK Link: <a href="https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/RR">https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/RR</a> 788 Rhoades et al kittiwakes FINAL.pdf
 <sup>5</sup> Clarkson, K., Aitken, D., Cope, R., & O'Hara, D October 2022 Flamborough & Filey Coast SPA: 2022 seabird colony count and population trends. Available at: <a href="https://yorkshiremarinenaturepartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Flamborough-and-Filey-Coast-SPA-seabird-colony-count-2022.pdf">https://yorkshiremarinenaturepartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Flamborough-and-Filey-Coast-SPA-seabird-colony-count-2022.pdf</a>

#### **Marine Mammals**

- 32. **Natural England** is invited to provide comment on the cumulative iPCoD modelling report submitted by the Applicant at D6 [REP6-026], particularly in relation to the in-combination impacts on the:
  - Harbour seal qualifying feature of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC
  - Grey seal qualifying feature of the Humber Estuary SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC
  - Harbour porpoise qualifying feature of the Southern North Sea SAC
- 33. To reduce the level of underwater noise generated and its propagation through the marine environment, the **Applicant** is requested to revise Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [REP6-020], the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocols ("MMMPs") [REP6-064] & [REP6-066], and the In-Principle Southern North Sea SAC Integrity Plan [REP6-068] to commit to a specific Noise Abatement Systems ("NAS"), or package of NAS, in the event that driven or part-driven piles are used during the construction of the Proposed Development.
- 34. To enable operations at night or in adverse weather conditions, the **Applicant** is requested to update the MMMP for Piling Activities and Unexploded Ordinance clearance, to include either:
  - further details in relation to the intended PAM system and the features and processes this would constitute, and to demonstrate that it can cover an appropriate area, including for marine mammals that vocalise infrequently; or should this not be possible
  - wording that stipulates that piling activities will only take place in weather conditions which allow the effective operation of marine mammal observers.

## Commercial fisheries and fishing

35. The Secretary of State notes the disagreement between the Applicant and the NFFO regarding the Applicant's assessment in relation to potting activities and requests **the NFFO** to confirm if there has been any further engagement with the Applicant on this matter. **The EIFCA** and **the NFFO** are requested to respond if they still have outstanding concerns regarding the Applicant's assessments of effects on commercial fishing activities or the mitigation proposed.

# **Civil and Military aviation and communication**

36. The Secretary of State notes the MoD's objects to the Proposed Development as it considers there is not a suitable scheme to mitigate the impacts from the turbines on the Air Defence radar at Remote Radar Head ("RRH") Staxton Wold and RRH Neatishead [RR-016], but that MoD's drafting of the relevant requirement has been included by the Applicant in the dDCO. The Secretary of State requests that the **MoD** confirms it is content with the drafting in the final dDCO [AS-042].

## Land use, geology and ground conditions

37. The Secretary of State notes that T.H. Clements & Son Ltd's closing statement [REP6-157] confirmed it was satisfied with the content of the Code of Construction

Practice [REP6-056], subject to one outstanding area of disagreement regarding the issue of monitoring the depth and lateral position of the onshore cable. As this response was provided at the closing Deadline, the Secretary of States invites the **Applicant** to respond to this concern.

- 38. Brown & Co Property and Business Consultants LLP and T.H. Clements & Son Ltd are invited to comment further on the issue of dust contamination [RR-067] on crops around the onshore Export Cable Corridor and the Applicant's proposed mitigation.
- 39. The Secretary of State is aware of conflicting scientific evidence surrounding the impact of soil heating from cabling on crop growth and notes that this was a point of disagreement between the Applicant and T.H. Clements & Son Ltd [RR-067], throughout the examination [REP6-121 and REP6-157]. The **Applicant** and **T.H. Clements & Son Ltd** are invited to present further information supporting its positions.

## Onshore ecology and ornithology

- 40. Noting NPS EN-1 4.6.7 which states that in England applicants are encouraged to use the latest version of the biodiversity metric to calculate their biodiversity baseline and present planned biodiversity net gain outcomes, the Secretary of State requests that the **Applicant** provides an updated Biodiversity Net Gain ("BNG") strategy ([AS-011], and [AS-014]-[AS-020]) using a DEFRA biodiversity metric, rather than the Applicant's own metric. Specifically, he requests that the BNG is presented using final percentages for each unit type (i.e. Habitat, Hedgerows, and Watercourse (if applicable)).
- 41. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust ("LWT") is invited to confirm whether the amendments made by the Applicant to the OLEMS [REP6-070] and [REP6-072] at Deadline 6 satisfy its concerns raised in [REP2-070] and [REP4-145].
- 42. **Natural England** is invited to comment on the updated wording within the Applicant's final Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy ("OLEMS") submitted at D6 [RE6-070] and Schedule of Mitigation [REP6-074], particularly regarding matters affecting the North Norfolk Coast SPA and Ramsar site, Greater Wash SPA, and The Wash SPA and Ramsar site.

#### **Other HRA Matters**

- 43. Noting that a substantial amount of HRA-related information was submitted at Deadline 6 which Natural England, as the appropriate nature conservation body, may not have had the opportunity to comment on, **Natural England** is invited to provide any final comments on any outstanding HRA-related issues.
- 44. In addition to specific requests earlier in this letter, the **Applicant** is requested to provide an update on any other progress that has been made with developing its proposed ornithology compensation measures since the close of examination.

#### **Data Sharing**

45. The **Applicant** is requested to revise the Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan [REP6-054] to require the regular submission of all relevant pre-construction,

- construction, and post-construction/operational survey and monitoring data to the Marine Data Exchange (The Crown Estate), and relevant Local Environmental Records Centres.
- 46. The **Applicant** is requested to revise the Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan [REP6-054], the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol for Piling Activities [REP6-064] and the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol for Unexploded Ordnance Clearance [REP6-066] to require the submission of all relevant noise monitoring data to the JNCC UK Marine Noise Registry.
- 47. The **Applicant** is requested to revise the Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP6-056] and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy [REP6-070] to require the regular submission of all relevant pre-construction, construction, and post-construction/operational survey and monitoring data in the appropriate formats to the relevant Local Environmental Records Centre(s) and relevant national/regional environmental recording schemes to ensure that future environmental records of the area are accessible and accurate, in accordance with CIEEM Guidelines for Accessing, Using, and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK (2023).
- 48. The **Applicant** is requested to revise all HRA Related Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plans to require the regular submission of all relevant pre-implementation and operational survey and monitoring data to the Marine Data Exchange (The Crown Estate) and relevant Local Environmental Records Centres.

## **Onshore Water Environment**

49. The Secretary of State notes that the Environment Agency has published new data following an update to the National Flood Risk Assessment. The Flood Map for Planning and flood zones were also updated on 25 March 2025. The **Applicant** is invited to explain whether the updates have any implications for the conclusions of its ES Chapter 24: Onshore Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk [REP4a-016]. The **Applicant** should provide revised documents, as necessary.

#### **Onshore Traffic and transport**

50. The Secretary of State notes Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) concerns regarding the potential for significant cumulative traffic impacts from other NSIPs in the region. LCC is requested to confirm whether it considers the Applicant's methodology for calculating the cumulative traffic impact assessment still remains appropriate in light of any updates to both the Applicants Application and any updates to the construction programmes of other NSIPs in the region after the close of examination. LCC is also requested to comment on whether it considers any further measures are required at a regional level to manage cumulative traffic impacts and whether it has had any further engagement with the Applicant on this matter.

#### **Deemed Marine Licence**

- 51. The Secretary of State notes that the MMO had a number of issues with the drafting contained within the Deemed Marine Licence ("DML") in Schedules 10 16 and believed that they should be removed. The **Applicant** and the **MMO** are therefore requested to provide an update on the status of these conditions.
- 52. Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to <a href="mailto:OuterDowsingOffshoreWind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk">OuterDowsingOffshoreWind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk</a> by 23.59 on 9 September 2025.
- 53. Responses will be published on the Outer Dowsing Offshore Windfarm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website: <a href="https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010130">https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010130</a> as soon as possible after **10 September 2025**.
- 54. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Outer Dowsing Offshore Windfarm or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully

John Wheadon

#### John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery

Department of Energy Security & Net Zero