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Mr Jonathan Wilson
BOWL Consenting Manager
SSE Renewables Limited
1 Waterloo Street
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Our Ref: 003/OW/BOWL - 8

24th March 2016

Dear Mr Wilson,

CONSENT UNDER SECTION 36 THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (AS AMENDED) AND A MARINE LICENCE UNDER PART 4 OF THE MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 AND MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE BEATRICE OFFSHORE WIND FARM AND TRANSMISSION WORKS, OUTER MORAY FIRTH.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2nd March 2016 requesting that Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (“MS-LOT”) give their written approval to BOWL’s position with respect to any requirement for mitigation of piling noise for spawning herring. Acceptance of this position will satisfy the requirements of condition 34 of the Section 36 Consent.

MS-LOT agreed to the methodology in BOWL’s “Proposal for the Undertaking of a Herring Larval Survey”, revision 5 in a letter dated 18th July 2014. Following acceptance, by Marine Scotland Science (“MSS”), of the “2015 Herring Larval Survey Report” setting out the results of the herring larval survey completed in August and September 2015, and the “Summary Technical Report” comparing the results of both the 2014 and 2015 herring larval surveys and stating BOWL’s position with respect to any requirement for mitigation of piling noise for spawning herring, MS-LOT, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, are content with these reports and the conclusion that the planned piling installation activities will not adversely impact spawning of the Orkney-Shetland herring stock.

MS-LOT can confirm that the submitted “2015 Herring Larval Survey Report” and “Summary Technical Report” fulfil the requirements of, and are sufficient to fully discharge condition 34 of the Section 36 Consent and, as a result:

- BOWL will not be required to complete further herring surveys;
- BOWL will not be required to devise a mitigation strategy to minimise the noise impacts on herring from piling activity; and therefore
- a piling restriction not exceeding sixteen (16) days within the months of August and September across the whole Development in any year of construction involving piling will not be required.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Bain
Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team