Dear Ms Aires,

Hywind Scotland Pilot Park Offshore Floating Wind Turbine Project in the Buchan Deeps, 25 miles from Peterhead, Scotland

The applicant has contacted the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in relation to the above development, and the need to commence on-site in the near future. The MOD is a relevant consultee with regard to Condition 3.2.2.16 of the consent.

Condition 3.2.2.16 of the consent states;

“The Licensee must, prior to the commencement of the Works, submit Air Defence Radar Mitigation Scheme ("the ADRM scheme"), in writing, to the Licensing Authority for their written approval. Such approval may only be granted following consultation by the Licensing Authority with the MOD. For the purposes of this condition, the ADRM Scheme means a detailed scheme to mitigate the adverse impacts of the works on the air defence radar at Remote Radar Head ("RRH") Buchan and the air surveillance and control operations of the MOD. The scheme will set out the appropriate measures to be implemented to that end. No turbines shall become operational until the mitigation measures, which the approved ADRM Scheme requires to be implemented prior to the operation of the turbines, have been implemented, and the Licensing Authority has confirmed this in writing. No turbines shall become operational until any performance criteria specified in the approved ADRM Scheme, and which the approved ADRM Scheme requires to have been satisfied prior to the operation of the turbines, have been satisfied. The Licensee shall thereafter comply with all other obligations contained within the approved ADRM Scheme for the duration of the operation of the Development."

The MOD’s approach to the discharge of conditions is that the Serco Air Defence Mitigation Modelling report is the first stage in establishing whether mitigation may be available from a technical and operational perspective. If it is accepted, the MOD will agree a planning condition with
the developer which should be applied to the consent, if granted. This has been completed in respect of the Hywind Scotland Pilot Park Offshore development.

The procedure thereafter is that if a suspensive condition has been applied to the consent, the condition would then be discharged by the developer joining the Contribution Agreement (handled by the MOD organisation Defence Equipment & Support), which would require a financial contribution towards the funding of the upgraded Air Defence radar, and then the payment of that financial contribution. The financial contribution can be significant and also requires the provision of a financial bond. The actual contribution is calculated with reference to the maximum generating capacity of the proposed development.

The MOD is content that the developer has satisfied the first part of Condition 3.2.2.16, namely;

“The Licensee must, prior to the commencement of the Works, submit Air Defence Radar Mitigation Scheme ("the ADRM scheme"), in writing, to the Licensing Authority for their written approval. Such approval may only be granted following consultation by the Licensing Authority with the MOD. For the purposes of this condition, the ADRM Scheme means a detailed scheme to mitigate the adverse impacts of the works on the air defence radar at Remote Radar Head ("RRH") Buchan and the air surveillance and control operations of the MOD. The scheme will set out the appropriate measures to be implemented to that end.”

The MOD therefore considers that the Scottish Government consents team is in a position to partially discharge Condition 3.2.2.16, thus allowing development to commence at the site.

At this time, the MOD is not in a position to recommend to the Scottish Government consents team that the remainder of Condition 3.2.2.16 is discharged, namely;

“No turbines shall become operational until the mitigation measures, which the approved ADRM Scheme requires to be implemented prior to the operation of the turbines, have been implemented, and the Licensing Authority has confirmed this in writing. No turbines shall become operational until any performance criteria specified in the approved ADRM Scheme, and which the approved ADRM Scheme requires to have been satisfied prior to the operation of the turbines, have been satisfied. The Licensee shall thereafter comply with all other obligations contained within the approved ADRM Scheme for the duration of the operation of the Development.”

The MOD is working closely with the developer to satisfy this part of Condition 3.2.2.16 and will write to the Scottish Government consents team to update them once the Contribution Agreement and accession process have been completed.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Hodgetts
Senior Safeguarding Officer