

Mr Jonathan Wilson
BOWL Consenting Manager
SSE Renewables Limited
1 Waterloo Street
Glasgow
G2 6AY

Our Ref: 003/OW/BOWL - 8

28th June 2017

Dear Mr Wilson,

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 & MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009, PART 4
MARINE LICENSING**

Thank you for your correspondence of 1st March 2017 requesting that Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (“MS-LOT”) give their written approval to the revised ‘Piling Strategy’ (“PS”) (Revision 5.0, Reference LF000005-PLN-142, issued 01/03/2017).

A previous version of the ‘Piling Strategy’ (Revision 4.0, issued 02/11/2015) was approved by MS-LOT, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, in a letter dated 2nd November 2015 and deemed sufficient to fully discharge condition 12 of the Section 36 consent and condition 3.2.2.5. of the Offshore Transmission Works (“OTW”) Marine Licence (licence number: 04461/14/1), subject to it being fully implemented.

MS-LOT, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, have consulted with Scottish Natural Heritage (“SNH”) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (“JNCC”) and can confirm approval of the revised PS (Revision 5.0, issued 01/03/2017).

In their correspondence dated 5th April 2017, JNCC confirmed that they were content with approach outlined in the PS, however, following the delegation of renewables advice in Scottish water from JNCC to SNH on 1st April 2017, JNCC would defer to SNH’s advice in this instance.

In their correspondence dated 14th April 2017, SNH confirmed that neither they, nor the JNCC, require copies of the acoustic files/raw data recorded during piling activity. SNH confirmed that further discussions had taken place with JNCC to confirm their requirements in relation to the (2010) piling strategy and noise registry protocol. BOWL are required to report sightings of marine mammals to the JNCC through the completion and return of marine mammal recording forms but there is no requirement to save or forward the PAM acoustic files to JNCC or SNH. SNH recommend confirming whether Marine Scotland Science (“MSS”) has any requirements in respect of this monitoring (see BOWL Phased Piling Mitigation Strategy, Revision 3.0, reference LF000005-PLN-177, Section 6 – Reporting). MSS have agreed with this course of action.

Any updates or amendments made to this PS by the Company, must be submitted in writing by the Company to the Scottish Ministers for their written approval.

Yours sincerely,

Roger May
Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team