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[Redacted]

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Dear Rebecca

I'm writing to clarify an issue recently identified in one of the Berwick Bank ornithology application documents, specifically the Application of SeabORD Technical Report, which forms Annex D of Appendix 11.4 of Chapter 11, the Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology EIA chapter.

This Annex report includes four statements attributed to Dr Kate Searle of the UKCEH, who met with the report authors at HiDef for technical assistance in running the SeabORD model. Whilst referenced in good faith, the report author neglected to check these statements with Dr Searle prior to the report being submitted as part of SSE's consent application and the UKCEH feel that the quotes misrepresent the discussion at the time. As such, SSE and HiDef would like to withdraw these references and make it clear that the UKCEH do not endorse the statements.

For reference, the paragraphs in question have been reproduced below and the Annex is available in full at the link below. For clarity, the references to be withdrawn have been highlighted in red text.

44. For simulations using less than 100% of the population, mortalities were scaled using a scaling factor of 1/proportion of the population modelled. This was discussed **and agreed** with by Dr. Kate Searle, one of the developers of SeabORD. However, it was noted that the results may not scale linearly. Using the scaling factor means if you were to scale the results of a simulation using 50% of the population, the scaled number of mortalities would double. However, as the model includes stochasticity it is not guaranteed that running a simulation with 50% and 100% of the population would follow this trend and this has not been investigated. **Thus, scaled values can only exist as an estimate of those produced by simulations using the full population as they may not produce the exact same values as running the full population in the simulation (Searle, K. 2022, pers. comm., 21 June).** This could lead to small under or overestimations of mortalities and mortality rates.

53. **The SeabORD authors advised HiDef not to rely on the additional mortality of chicks to interpret the impact of wind farms, as the corresponding results for adults have been found to be more accurate (K. Searle meeting with HiDef 21 July 2022).** However, the results have been included to provide the full picture of how the model operates.

66. Calibration: HiDef required clarification of the methods used to calibrate the model to generate the correct prey quantity ranges for the final paired simulations (Table 2.5) (Searle, K. 2022, personal communication, 5 May).

69. Scaling factors: as simulations for the same species used different proportions of the population, a scaling factor was applied to the results to estimate the outputs of running the simulation with 100%. This was discussed with the creators of SeabORD and it was decided to use 1/proportion of the population simulated. However, it was noted by the creators of SeabORD that the outputs may not scale linearly, meaning that scaled values can only provide an estimate of running the model with the full population (Searle, K. 2022, pers. comm., 21 June).

[BERWICK BANK WIND FARM Digital Consent Application / EIA Documents \(berwickbank-eia.com\)](https://berwickbank-eia.com):

Berwick Bank Offshore EIA - Appendix 11.4, Annex D

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Logie

Berwick Bank Consents Manager (Offshore)

(by email)