

# **Historic Environment Scotland**

## Marc MacFarlane

---

**From:** Laura Denholm <laura.denholm@hes.scot>  
**Sent:** 31 August 2023 13:52  
**To:** MS Marine Renewables  
**Subject:** EIA Screening - HES Response  
**Attachments:** 20230831EIAScreeningHESResponse.pdf

Please see our response attached.

Kind regards

Laura

Laura Denholm | Business Support Officer – Casework Technician | Heritage Directorate Historic Environment Scotland | Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil Alba Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

T: 0131 668 8898

E: [laura.denholm@hes.scot](mailto:laura.denholm@hes.scot)

We'd like your thoughts on our draft Regulatory Framework. Have your say by taking part in our short survey: [Our Regulatory Framework](#)

[www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

20230831EIAScreeningHESResponse

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Historic Environment Scotland - Scottish Charity No. SC045925 Registered office: Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH Historic Environment Scotland Enterprises Ltd – Company No. SC510997 Registered office: Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9

1SH Scran Ltd – Company No. SC163518 Registered office: John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh, EH8 9NX \_\_\_\_\_

This e-mail does not form part of any contract unless specifically stated and is solely for the intended recipient.

Please inform the sender if received in error.

---



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

**By email to:**

[MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)

Marine Scotland (Marine Renewables)  
Marine Laboratory  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716  
[HMConsultations@hes.scot](mailto:HMConsultations@hes.scot)

Our case ID: 300046189

31 August 2023

Dear Marine Scotland

[The Marine Works \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2017 Highland Wind Ltd - Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and Associated Marine Licences - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, Dounreay, Caithness Request for Screening Opinion](#)

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 14 August 2023 seeking our comments on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening opinion for the above proposed S36C variations. This letter contains our comments for our historic environment interests. That is world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their setting, category A-listed buildings and their setting, Historic Marine Protected Areas (HMPAs), gardens and designed landscapes and battlefields on their respective Inventories.

Your archaeological and conservation advisors will also be able to offer advice for their interests. This may include unscheduled archaeology, category B- and C-listed buildings and conservation areas.

### **Our Screening opinion**

We understand that the proposed variations will incorporate refinements to the design parameters of the proposals, which will reduce the number of turbines and their footprint, and extend the operational consent from 10 years to 25 years.

We do not consider that the proposed variations have the potential to raise significant impacts on known or designated heritage assets within our remit. We therefore have no comments to make on the requirement or otherwise for an EIA for the proposals.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Sam Fox and they can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 6890 or by email on [samuel.fox@hes.scot](mailto:samuel.fox@hes.scot).

Yours faithfully

**Historic Environment Scotland**

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

**NatureScot**

## Marc MacFarlane

---

**From:** Kim McEwen <Kim.McEwen@nature.scot>  
**Sent:** 31 August 2023 16:15  
**To:** MS Marine Renewables  
**Cc:** Marc MacFarlane; Ben Walker; Toni-marie Mcginn  
**Subject:** RE: Highland Wind Ltd - Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and Associated Marine Licences - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, Dounreay, Caithness - NatureScot response

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Objective:** -1

Dear Marc,

### **SCREENING OPINION ON THE PROPOSED SECTION 36 CONSENT VARIATION APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF PENTLAND FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND FARM, DOUNREAY, CAITHNESS**

Thank you for consulting NatureScot on the request for a Screening Opinion on the proposed Section 36 consent variation application for the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm.

We have reviewed the Screening Report (document reference: GBPNTD-PGM-PEN-RP-00002) and our advice is outlined below.

#### **Proposal**

Highland Wind Ltd currently holds a Section 36 consent for Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, granted on 28 June 2023, comprising seven turbines for an operational period of ten years. They are seeking to vary this consent to extend the operating lease from ten to 25 years as well as incorporating refinements to the design parameters of the Project as laid out in Table 3.1 (page 12) of the Screening Report.

As the proposed refinements to the design parameters remain within the project design envelope assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) submitted in August 2022 and Highland Wind Ltd consider there to be no further significant effects identified following their review of the original EIA against the proposed variation. They have therefore concluded that the proposed variation does not constitute an EIA development and an EIA is not required.

#### **NatureScot advice**

Overall we are content with the approaches and findings outlined in the Screening Report and consider that the proposed variation would not require a full EIA to support the variation application. Please see below for further advice specific to ornithology and SLVIA.

#### *Ornithology*

It is noted in the Screening Report (Section 1.1) that NatureScot raised concerns regarding the potential in-combination impacts to the puffin and kittiwake features of the North Caithness Cliffs Special Protection Area (SPA). Indeed we objected to the original proposal on the basis that in our view the proposal would have an adverse effect on site integrity for puffin and could have an adverse effect on site integrity for kittiwake at the North Caithness Cliffs SPA in-combination with the Moray Firth wind farms.

As stated in the Screening Report, the Habitat Regulations Appraisal process falls outwith the requirements of EIA Screening but an addendum is proposed to be submitted to the Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) within the S36 consent application report which will address the proposed design refinements and the potential implications of these for ornithological features. We agree with the need for this information and that it need not be part of a formal EIAR. We will continue to discuss the modelling approaches with the applicant, review the

information provided within the S36 consent application report and provide further advice on ornithology impacts as required.

*Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA)*

A detailed SLVIA comparison has been included within Appendix 1 of the Screening Report, including comparative wirelines for ten out of the 14 viewpoints used within the original SLVIA assessment. We have reviewed the information provided and agree with the conclusions of the Screening Report that the overall findings would not be notably different to those in the original EIA. This comparative assessment has been extremely useful and we recommend that this information is provided as part of the application as supporting information.

We hope the above is of assistance.

Kind regards,  
Kim

**Kim McEwen | Marine Sustainability Adviser**

NatureScot | Eastbank | East Road | Kirkwall | KW15 1LX | t: 01463 701 671

NàdarAlba | Bruach an Ear | Rathad an Ear | Kirkwall | KW15 1LX

[nature.scot](http://nature.scot) – Scotland’s Nature Agency – Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba - [@nature\\_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot)

---

**From:** MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot <MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 14 August 2023 10:41

**To:** MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot

**Cc:** Ben.Walker@gov.scot; Toni-marie.McGinn@gov.scot; Marc.MacFarlane@gov.scot

**Subject:** Highland Wind Ltd - Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and Associated Marine Licences - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, Dounreay, Caithness - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 4 September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (“The MW Regulations”)**

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (“The EW Regulations”)**

**COLLECTIVELY, “The EIA Regulations”**

**CONSULTATION UNDER PART 2, REGULATION 10(5) OF THE MW REGULATIONS AND PART 2, REGULATION 8(5) OF THE EW REGULATIONS**

Highland Wind Ltd – Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and associated Offshore Wind Farm Marine Licence and Offshore Transmission Infrastructure Marine Licence – Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm – Dounreay, Caithness

Highland Wind Ltd has requested the Scottish Ministers adopt a screening opinion in relation to the above proposed works under regulation 10(1) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(1) of the EW Regulations.

I should be grateful if you would please review the documents provided at the below web address and, as required by regulation 10(5) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(5) of the EW Regulations, provide your view as to whether the above proposed works are an EIA project as defined in the EIA Regulations.

The documents can be found here:

<https://marine.gov.scot/node/24295>

In accordance with regulation 10(6) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(6) of the EW Regulations, please ensure you provide your view to [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) no later than **4 September 2023**.

Kind regards,  
Marc MacFarlane

**Marine Directorate** - Marine Planning & Policy

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

General Queries: +44 (0)300 244 5046

General Email: [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)

Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>



\*\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return. Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager or the sender. Please note that for business purposes, outgoing and incoming emails from and to NatureScot may be monitored.

Tha am post-dealain seo agus fiosrachadh sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach no buidheann ainmichte a- mhàin. Mas e gun d' fhuair sibh am post-dealain seo le mearachd, cuiribh fios dhan manaidsear-siostaim no neach- sgrìobhaidh. Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a- mach bho NàdarAlba.



# **Orkney Islands Council**

## Marc MacFarlane

---

**From:** Shona Turnbull <Shona.Turnbull@orkney.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 August 2023 14:53  
**To:** MS Marine Renewables  
**Cc:** planningconsultation  
**Subject:** FW: Highland Wind Ltd - Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and Associated Marine Licences - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, Dounreay, Caithness - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 4 September 2023

**Classification: NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

OIC marine planning team have no comments to add regarding this amendment.

Regards,  
Shona

Dr Shona Turnbull, MRTPI  
Marine Planner  
Orkney Islands Council



Working from home, so email is the best contact



---

**From:** planning <planning@orkney.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 15, 2023 9:12 AM  
**To:** Shona Turnbull <Shona.Turnbull@orkney.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Katie Williamson <Katie.Williamson@orkney.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Highland Wind Ltd - Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and Associated Marine Licences - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, Dounreay, Caithness - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 4 September 2023

**Classification: NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

Morning

Another Maine Scotland Consultation. Our reference is 23/299/MARCON

Katie – one for plotting

Regards  
Inga

---

**From:** [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) <[MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2023 10:41 AM

**To:** [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)

**Cc:** [Ben.Walker@gov.scot](mailto:Ben.Walker@gov.scot); [Toni-marie.Mcginn@gov.scot](mailto:Toni-marie.Mcginn@gov.scot); [Marc.MacFarlane@gov.scot](mailto:Marc.MacFarlane@gov.scot)

**Subject:** Highland Wind Ltd - Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and Associated Marine Licences - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, Dounreay, Caithness - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 4 September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2017 (“The MW Regulations”)**

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2017 (“The EW Regulations”)**

**COLLECTIVELY, “The EIA Regulations”**

**CONSULTATION UNDER PART 2, REGULATION 10(5) OF THE MW REGULATIONS AND  
PART 2, REGULATION 8(5) OF THE EW REGULATIONS**

Highland Wind Ltd – Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and associated Offshore Wind Farm Marine Licence and Offshore Transmission Infrastructure Marine Licence – Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm – Dounreay, Caithness

Highland Wind Ltd has requested the Scottish Ministers adopt a screening opinion in relation to the above proposed works under regulation 10(1) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(1) of the EW Regulations.

I should be grateful if you would please review the documents provided at the below web address and, as required by regulation 10(5) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(5) of the EW Regulations, provide your view as to whether the above proposed works are an EIA project as defined in the EIA Regulations.

The documents can be found here:

<https://marine.gov.scot/node/24295>

In accordance with regulation 10(6) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(6) of the EW Regulations, please ensure you provide your view to [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) no later than **4 September 2023**.

Kind regards,  
Marc MacFarlane

**Marine Directorate** - Marine Planning & Policy

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

General Queries: +44 (0)300 244 5046

General Email: [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)

Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>

\*\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return. Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Scottish Environment Protection  
Agency**

## Marc MacFarlane

---

**From:** Planning.North <Planning.North@sepa.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 August 2023 14:04  
**To:** MS Marine Renewables  
**Cc:** Marc MacFarlane  
**Subject:** FW: Highland Wind Ltd - Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and Associated Marine Licences - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, Dounreay, Caithness - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 4 September 2023

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

OFFICIAL

Dear Marc MacFarlane

**Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**  
**Highland Wind Ltd - Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and Associated Marine Licences**  
**Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, Dounreay, Caithness**  
**EIA Screening Request - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm (Revised Design)**

Thank you for your consultation.

Please refer to SEPA standing advice for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Marine Scotland on Marine Consultations [lups-gu13.pdf \(sepa.org.uk\)](#)  
– Para 2.3 Please do not routinely consult SEPA directly on any applications which are purely within the marine environment, including at any stage of EIA or repeat consultations. Please consider our standing advice in Section 3 and Table 1 as SEPA's views and consultation response, where relevant.

**Standing advice**

For all matters covered by the below advice, SEPA has not assessed the application, has no site-specific comments to make and, where relevant, does not consider EIA is required from our perspective.

If you are consulting SEPA to request site specific advice eg on radioactive substances please confirm this is the case and the reason for this as we note as below in the Screening Request:

*HWL is seeking consent from the Scottish Ministers to vary the current S36 Consent under the Electricity Act 1989 for the Project by refining the following project parameters:*

- *Reducing the number of Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) from seven to six;*
- *Reducing the WTG footprint area from 10 km<sup>2</sup> to 5.85 km<sup>2</sup>. This comprises the area of sea surface occupied by the WTGs and associated floating substructure, excluding the mooring lines;*
- *Reducing the rotor swept area from 316,673 m<sup>3</sup> to 283,448 km<sup>3</sup>. This comprises the installation of up to 1 x WTG with rotor diameter up to 220 m and 5 x WTGs with rotor diameter up to 250 m;*
- *Reducing the number of floating substructures from seven to six;*
- *Reducing the number of mooring lines from 63 to 54;*
- *Reducing the number of anchors or piles from 63 to 54; and*
- *Extending the operational life of the Project from 10 to 25 years.*

*Design Refinements: No significant adverse effects were identified on water quality within the Original EIAR. The proposed design refinements will result in a reduction in WTGs from seven to six. This provides a corresponding reduction in the number of substructures required within the water column and the total number of anchors, inter array cables, mooring lines, and scour/cable protection to be installed on or within the seabed. As a result, the*

potential impacts on water and sediment quality will be reduced compared to those assessed within the Original EIAR. No new impacts are identified as a result of the design refinements, and therefore the findings of the Original EIAR remain valid.

Regards  
Clare

**Clare Pritchett**  
Senior Planning Officer  
Planning Service, SEPA  
Email: [planning.north@sepa.org.uk](mailto:planning.north@sepa.org.uk)  
Telephone: [Redacted]  
Part Time: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

*Disclaimer*

*This advice is given without prejudice to any decision made on elements of the proposal regulated by us, as such a decision may take into account factors not considered at this time. We prefer all the technical information required for any SEPA consents to be submitted at the same time as the planning or similar application. However, we consider it to be at the applicant's commercial risk if any significant changes required during the regulatory stage necessitate a further planning application or similar application and/or neighbour notification or advertising.*

*We have relied on the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to us in providing the above advice and can take no responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation, or omissions, in such information.*

*If we have not referred to a particular issue in our response, it should not be assumed that there is no impact associated with that issue. For planning applications, if you did not specifically request advice on flood risk, then advice will not have been provided on this issue. Further information on our consultation arrangements generally can be found on our [website planning pages](#).*

*The information contained in this email and any attachments may be confidential and is intended solely for the use of the intended recipients. Access, copying or re-use of the information in it by any other is not authorised. If you are not the intended recipient please notify us immediately by return email to [postmaster@sepa.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@sepa.org.uk).*

*Registered office: SEPA, Angus Smith Building, 6 Parklands Avenue, Eurocentral, Holytown, North Lanarkshire, ML1 4WQ*

---

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

**From:** [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) <[MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2023 10:41 AM  
**To:** [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)  
**Cc:** [Ben.Walker@gov.scot](mailto:Ben.Walker@gov.scot); [Toni-marie.Mcginn@gov.scot](mailto:Toni-marie.Mcginn@gov.scot); [Marc.MacFarlane@gov.scot](mailto:Marc.MacFarlane@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** Highland Wind Ltd - Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and Associated Marine Licences - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, Dounreay, Caithness - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 4 September 2023

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (“The MW Regulations”)**

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (“The EW Regulations”)**

**COLLECTIVELY, “The EIA Regulations”**

**CONSULTATION UNDER PART 2, REGULATION 10(5) OF THE MW REGULATIONS AND PART 2, REGULATION 8(5) OF THE EW REGULATIONS**

Highland Wind Ltd – Proposed Variation to Section 36 Consent and associated Offshore Wind Farm Marine Licence and Offshore Transmission Infrastructure Marine Licence – Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm – Dounreay, Caithness

Highland Wind Ltd has requested the Scottish Ministers adopt a screening opinion in relation to the above proposed works under regulation 10(1) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(1) of the EW Regulations.

I should be grateful if you would please review the documents provided at the below web address and, as required by regulation 10(5) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(5) of the EW Regulations, provide your view as to whether the above proposed works are an EIA project as defined in the EIA Regulations.

The documents can be found here:  
<https://marine.gov.scot/node/24295>

In accordance with regulation 10(6) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(6) of the EW Regulations, please ensure you provide your view to [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) no later than **4 September 2023**.

Kind regards,  
Marc MacFarlane

**Marine Directorate** - Marine Planning & Policy

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

General Queries: +44 (0)300 244 5046

General Email: [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)

Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>



\*\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return. Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*



# **The Highlands Council**

## Marc MacFarlane

---

**From:** Michael Kordas (Planning (North)) <Michael.Kordas@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 August 2023 10:04  
**To:** Marc MacFarlane  
**Subject:** Pentland Offshore Windfarm - EIA Screening Request 23/03970/SCRE  
**Attachments:** 23.03970.SCRE - Screening Opinion - EIA Not Required.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Marc,

Further to your EIA screening request for the amendments to the Pentland Offshore Windfarm, please see the Council's response attached.

Kind regards,

Michael

*Michael Kordas MRTPI*

*Planner*

*The Highland Council*

**Strategic Projects Team: The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX**

**Email: [Michael.Kordas@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Kordas@highland.gov.uk)**

**This advice is given without prejudice to the future consideration of and decision on any application received by The Highland Council**

**Thathar a' toirt seachad na comhairle seo gun chlaon-bhreith do bheachdachadh air agus co-dhùnadh a thaobh tagradh sam bith a tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' faighinn san àm ri teachd**

Unless related to the business of The Highland Council, the views or opinions expressed within this e-mail are those of the sender and do not necessarily reflect those of The Highland Council, or associated bodies, nor does this e-mail form part of any contract unless so stated.

Mura h-eil na beachdan a tha air an cur an cèill sa phost-d seo a' buntainn ri gnothachas Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, 's ann leis an neach fhèin a chuir air falbh e a tha iad, is chan eil iad an-còmhnaidh a' riochdachadh beachdan na Comhairle, no buidhnean buntainneach, agus chan eil am post-d seo na phàirt de chunnradh sam bith mura h-eil sin air innse.

Highland Wind Limited  
c/o Marine Scotland  
Per: Marc MacFarlane  
Marine Laboratory  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

Please ask for / Foighnich airson: Michael Kordas  
Direct Dial / Àireamh fòn: 01349 868426  
Email / Post-d: michael.kordas@highland.gov.uk  
Our Ref / Ur n-àireamh-iùil: 23/03970/SCRE  
Your Ref / Ar n-àireamh-iùil:  
Date / Ceann-là: 24 August 2023

Dear Marc,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2017 RIAGHAILTEAN DEALBHAI DH BAILE IS DÙTHCHA (MEASADH BUAI DH  
ÀRAINNEACHD) (ALBA) 2017**

**PROPOSAL: PENTLAND FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND FARM - DOUNREAY, CAITHNESS -  
PROPOSED VARIATION TO SECTION 36 CONSENT AND ASSOCIATED OFFSHORE WIND  
FARM MARINE LICENCE AND OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE MARINE  
LICENCE**

**LOCATION: DEVELOPMENT SITE 9KM NW OF, DOUNREAY NUCLEAR RESEARCH  
ESTABLISHMENT, DOUNREAY,**

I refer to the above proposed development and to your request, dated 14 August 2023 for a Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (hereafter referred to as 'the 2017 Regulations').

Screening Opinion

It is considered that **Environmental Impact Assessment is NOT required** for the development described in the letter and information accompanying your screening request.

The rationale behind this screening opinion is as follows:

1. The proposal does not constitute Schedule 1 development under the 2017 Regulations; and
2. While the proposal does fall within the definition of 'Schedule 2 development' (Regulation 2 - Interpretation), in that it consists of development type 3 (a), having screened it against the selection criteria outlined in Schedule 3 (including cumulative impact, pollution, impact on natural resources/the natural environment, environmental quality and the historic environment), impact on the receiving environment, while possible, is not considered to be significant. Therefore, the proposed development does not constitute 'EIA development' and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.

### Negative Screening Opinions

It is important to note that a negative screening opinion, i.e. one which states that EIA is not required, does not indicate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on the receiving environment. It merely constitutes an opinion that any impact is unlikely to be significant in terms of the criteria outlined in Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations.

### Alterations to the Development as Proposed

If the scale, character, location and/or impact potential of the proposed development changes at any point in future, a reassessment of the need for EIA may be required. You are therefore advised to contact us to discuss any alterations to the proposal at an early stage and prior to the submission of a planning application.

Should you require any further information or clarification on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 868426.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Planner

**Please Note:** This screening opinion does not constitute any form of pre-application planning advice. The merits of the proposed development have not been assessed, nor has its acceptability in terms of material planning considerations and development plan policy.