

E: MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot

[Redacted]
Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm

Date: 15 May 2026

Dear [Reda

European Protected Species (“EPS”) licence (licence number EPS/BS-00011519

On 5 December 2025, Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (“MD-LOT”), issued Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm Limited (“ICOL”) with a European Protected Species (“EPS”) licence (licence number EPS/BS-00011519) under regulation 44(2)(e) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and regulation 55(6)(a) of the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

This licence was subject to the following conditions, to mitigate potential impacts of cumulative Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS) on Minke Whale.

Condition 12 of licence number EPS/BS-00011519 requires that:

The Licensee must not undertake any piling of the 12 locations with challenging ground conditions, as identified in the Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm European Protected Species Risk Assessment Generating Station Works, Revision 1 (document reference: IC02-INT-EC-OFL 04-INC-RPT-003) dated 11 November 2025, between 1 June and 1 October unless this has been agreed in writing by the Licensing Authority.

Condition 13 of licence number EPS/BS-00011519 requires that:

The Licensee must undertake underwater noise modelling to validate the predictions of the Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm Generating Station Piling Strategy, Revision 2 (document reference: IC02-INT-EC-OFC-005-INC-STR-002), dated 11 November 2025. If the underwater noise modelling shows that noise levels exceed those predicted in Section 6.3.2 of the Generating Station Piling Strategy, then the Licensee must discuss and agree further mitigation measures for minke whale with the Licensing Authority.

On the 1 May 2026 and 14 May 2026, ICOL wrote to MD-LOT confirming that in line with condition 13 above, underwater noise monitoring had been undertaken at four monopile locations, including two at locations with challenging ground conditions.

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You also advised that ICOL is of the view that the measured cumulative PTS-onset impact ranges remained below the maximum modelled predictions throughout the monitored piling events and confirmed that the two challenging condition monitoring locations presented are representative of the remaining uninstalled piles.

In light of this, ICOL requested that the season restriction in condition 12 be removed to permit installation of the remaining four of the 12 piles with challenging ground conditions beyond 1 June. Further, MD-LOT understands that subject to suitable weather conditions and normal operational constraints, ICOL currently anticipates completing monopile installation by mid-June.

MD-LOT consulted with NatureScot on the information provided. NatureScot advised that based on its understanding of the modelling outputs presented, in this instance, the seasonal restriction can be lifted.

Therefore, MD-LOT confirm on behalf of the Scottish Ministers that, piling at the remaining four locations with challenging ground conditions may continue beyond 1 June and the seasonal restriction noted in condition 12 no longer applies.

MD-LOT also confirm that this remains in accordance with the Generating Station Piling Strategy.

Please note that a copy of this letter will be published on the relevant Marine Scotland Information page.

Kind Regards

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Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team