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The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Application for a licence to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) for one of the following purposes

- For an imperative reason of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment)
- For preventing the spread of disease
- For preventing serious damage to property, or to fisheries.
- For scientific or educational purposes
- For the re-population of an area with, or the re-introduction into an area of, wild animals or wild plants (including any breeding or artificial propagation necessary for those purposes)
- Anything done in the interest of protecting wild flora or fauna or conserving natural habitats

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European protected species in the offshore area (beyond 12 nautical miles).

IMPORTANT: Before completing this form, please read these notes carefully

Applicants are advised to read these notes in conjunction with 'The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from Injury and Disturbance' (available from JNCC). If further clarification is needed please contact Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) on 0300 244 5046 or email: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot

Please complete all relevant sections of the form.

Please ensure that you answer questions fully in order to avoid delays.

The completed application should be sent to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot.

We will not process unsigned application forms.

Please ensure that you provide appropriate information to support your application. Applicants can provide this supporting information in the form of an EPS Risk Assessment. Guidance can be found in 'The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from Injury and Disturbance' (available from JNCC). Please contact MS-LOT if you wish to discuss the level of supporting documentation required for your application. Failure to provide sufficient supporting information may delay the consultation and licensing process.

MS-LOT will aim to determine whether a licence should be issued **within 6 to 8 weeks of acceptance of a completed application**. However, please note that for large scale or complex projects, the determination period may be longer.

If you experience any problems filling in this form, please contact MS-LOT.

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European Protected Species in the Offshore Scottish marine area (12 – 200nm).

Please note that European protected species are also protected in the inshore marine environment (less than 12 nautical mile from the coasts). Species in this area are protected under the The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

Do not use this form if your application relates to reserved matters such as oil and gas, defence or maritime transport. Please contact the relevant authority for further information.

Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg Marine licence).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required.

Part A

Section 1 Personal details

Please provide details of the individual, company or partnership you wish to be named on the licence. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and its conditions. Failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence is an offence under The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Section 2 Previous applications

Please provide details of any previous relevant licences.

Part B

Section 3

Species

Please provide details of the species that will be affected by the work and, what the actual work is. This information can be described in detail in your supporting information. You will need to provide detailed proposals (to be included in the 'Supporting information') of all the mitigation work that you plan to carry out which will affect European protected species.

Location

Describe the location of the proposed works. Include a list of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) of the boundary points of the proposed project. WGS84 is the World Geodetic System 1984 and the reference co-ordinate system used for marine licence applications. Co-ordinates taken from GPS equipment should be set to WGS84. Coordinates taken from recent admiralty charts will be on a WGS84 compatible datum. Ordnance survey maps do not use WGS84. In a few cases, (e.g. laying of long pipelines) it may only be practicable to supply co-ordinates for the start and end points.

Example: For positions read from charts the format should be as in the example: 55°55.555'N 002°22.222'W (WGS84). The decimal point specifies that decimals of minutes are used and the datum is stated explicitly. If seconds are used then the format should be as in the example: 55°55'44"N 2°22'11"W (WGS84).

It is important that the correct positions, in the correct format, are included with this application, as any errors will result in the application being refused or delayed.

Section 4 Consideration of designated sites

Please provide details of any designated sites affected by your proposals. You are advised to consult the appropriate nature conservation body, if the work you propose to do affects a Natura site or an MPA.

Section 5 Activities to be licensed

Please indicate the activities you intend to undertake that would otherwise be unlawful. Provide details of the proposed commencement and completion dates of the activities. **The licence start date will not be backdated, since to commence a project for which a licence has not been obtained may constitute an offence resulting in appropriate legal action.**

It is the licensee's responsibility to apply for any further licences or an extension prior to the expiry of the initial licence.

Section 6 Purpose of the licence application

Please indicate the purpose of the licence application, the first of the legal tests. Please complete the relevant Annex. This is the [legal basis of the application](#).

Section 7 Satisfactory alternatives

Please provide your consideration of why there is no satisfactory alternative. This must include all other options that have been evaluated, the alternative sites that were considered by you and why they were rejected (if no other sites were considered, you must provide the reasons why), or alternative methods of carrying out the work. You must also consider the option of not undertaking the work – the 'do-nothing' alternative.

In relation to each alternative considered, please provide an explanation of why you consider it to be satisfactory or unsatisfactory. In respect of any alternative sites please provide the location(s) and details of the alternative site(s), or your views on how the activity/proposal might have been achieved differently, and any other helpful information; e.g., pros and cons of alternative sites, or whether there is likely to be demand for all suitable sites to be used to meet an identified need. Please explain how this conclusion was reached.

Section 8 Other licences and consents

Detail all consents and licences required for the proposed project and indicate those that you have applied for or received.

Section 9 Noise Monitoring

Under the Marine Strategy Regulations (2010), there is a requirement to monitor loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise. Activities where this type of noise is produced include impact pile driving, geophysical surveys (seismic, sub bottom profiling and multibeam echosounders), explosives and some acoustic deterrent devices. Where noisy activity is being undertaken, you must complete a Proposed Activity form in the Marine Noise Registry, which collects estimated location and date range data on noisy activities. The Marine Noise Registry can be accessed at <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>. The Marine Noise Registry also collects the actual location and date data (after the activity has been completed). This data should be provided as a Close-out Report in the Marine Noise Registry following completion of the activity, please note that any licensee with a marine licence granted subject to conditions specific to the Marine Noise Registry will need to complete the appropriate data submission to fulfill the Marine Noise Registry. Indicate any noise generating activity and the sound frequency in hertz.

Section 10 Privacy notice

This section briefly describes the Scottish Ministers' responsibilities in relation to Data Protection based on the requirements the data protection laws and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Part D

Section 11 Declaration and warning

It is important to read the Declaration and Warning sections before signing the application form.

Site visits and compliance checks

It is possible that the licensing authority may undertake a site visit prior to the issue of a licence. The majority of site visits will be arranged several days in advance and will be conducted in the presence of the licensee (or applicant) however there may be occasions when a site visit will be made at short notice.

Licensees should be aware that they may receive a request for a site visit by the licensing authority, or a person authorised by the licensing authority, to assess site conditions against the conditions of the licence. It is essential that if any of the agreed mitigation measures contained in the Method Statement are changed for any reason, the licensing authority is informed as soon as possible.

The Licensing authority will monitor compliance with licences issued based on the information included in licence returns.

Where to seek further information

Further information can be obtained from Licensing Operations Team at the address below.

Licensing Operations Team
Marine Scotland
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Tel: 0300 244 5046
Email: MS.marinelicensing@gov.scot

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 2017 Regulations and other legislation.

Part A. The Applicant: Personal details

These questions relate to the person who will be the **named licensee**. The licence can be issued to an individual or a company or a partnership and the licensee will be responsible ensuring compliance with the licence and the conditions of the licence. Failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence is an offence under The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

1. Name of applicant

Title: [Redacted] Forename(s): [Redacted] Surname: [Redacted]

Company Name: Simply Blue Energy (Scotland)

Business Title (if Appropriate): Salamander Environment and Consents Manager

Address: 21 Young Street,
Edinburgh,
EH2 4HU

Tel no. (inc. dialling code): [Redacted]

Email address: [Redacted]

2. Applicant: Previous applications:

Have you previously held a wildlife licence issued in the UK? (please tick as appropriate)

Yes ☐ No ☒ (If yes, please complete below, if no, please go to Part B)

Who issued the licence?

Licence number (most recent licence)

Year in which the licence was issued.

What species were covered by the licence?

What activity was covered by the licence e.g. disturb, injure?

Part B. The Application

3. Species

(a) Please indicate which species is / are affected by the proposed works.

Common name(s):	Atlantic white-sided dolphin, Bottlenose dolphins, Harbour porpoise, Humpback whale Killer whale, Minke whale, Risso's dolphin and White-beaked dolphin
Scientific name(s)	Lagenorhynchus acutus Tursiops truncatus Phocoena phocoena Megaptera novaeangliae Orcinus orca Balaenoptera acutorostrata Grampus griseus; and Lagenorhynchus albirostris

(b) How many individual animals will be affected by licensed work?

Injury - 0
Disturbance - <1 animal for all species type. It is estimated that the total number of individuals disturbed will be minimal.

Please provide a description of how this number was calculated / estimated

The number of individuals which may experience disturbance from the worst-case scenario has been calculated using the area of disturbance, based on the animal densities from Hammond et al. (2021) and management unit information from IAMMWG (2021). In these calculations, the impact range serves as a radius with which to calculate the total area of coverage for a potential disturbance event associated with the survey activities.

The calculation method is further described in the attached EPS Risk Assessment document.

Hammond, P.S., Lacey, C., Gilles, A., Viquerat, S., Börjesson, P., Herr, H., Macleod, K., Ridoux, V., Santos, M.B., Scheidat, M., Teilmann, J., Vingada, J., and Øien, N. (2021). Estimates of cetacean abundance in European Atlantic waters in summer 2016 from the SCANS-III aerial and shipboard surveys. June 2021.

IAMMWG (2021). Updated abundance estimates for cetacean Management Units in UK waters. JNCC Report No. 680, JNCC Peterborough, ISSN 0963-8091.

(c) **Location of proposed licensed action**

Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) defining the extent of the project. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

See Appended Table in Risk Assessment

LATITUDE								LONGITUDE							
		°			.		'N			°			.		'W
		°			.		'N			°			.		'W
		°			.		'N			°			.		'W
		°			.		'N			°			.		'W
		°			.		'N			°			.		'W
		°			.		'N			°			.		'W
		°			.		'N			°			.		'W
		°			.		'N			°			.		'W

- (d) Provide a brief description of the proposed activity and the methods to be used.
Detailed information should be included in your Supporting Information
Please provide details of the source levels and frequencies of underwater noise if relevant

Simply Blue Energy (Scotland) Limited, a Joint Venture between Simply Blue Group (SBG), Ørsted and Subsea 7 are developing Project Salamander, a proposed Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) development off the east coast of Scotland.
SBES plan to undertake a geophysical survey of the offshore array area and potential export cable corridor as well as the nearshore section of the export cable corridor using the following techniques:

- High frequency Sub-Bottom Profiler (SBP);
- Multi Beam Echosounder (MBES),
- Side Scan Sonar (SSS),
- Sound Velocity Profiler (SVP); and
- Magnetometer.

A Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) and Habitat Assessment survey will also be undertaken and will involve the use of Ultra Short Baseline (USBL).

Underwater noise emissions from geophysical survey equipment is the primary source of potential injury and disturbance to EPS. While some survey techniques may introduce noise to the marine environment, the majority of survey equipment types do not operate in relevant frequency ranges or generate sufficient levels of noise to be considered as potential sources of noise-related injury or disturbance to EPS. It is acknowledged that the physical presence of vessels during the proposed survey operations may also generate disturbance to EPS.

The marine survey equipment to be used, including their source levels and frequencies, are detailed in the attached Risk Assessment.

- (e) Briefly state how you will minimise the impact of your proposed work on European protected species.
Detailed information should be included in your Supporting Information.

Mitigation measures specifically designed to mitigate injury risks from geophysical surveys will be adopted (JNCC, 2017). These measures include deployment of a Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) to monitor for the presence of marine mammals within a 500 m mitigation zone prior to the commencement of geophysical operations.

Mitigation measures include:

- All vessels will adhere to the provisions of the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code (SNH, 2017).
- Survey teams will be made aware of all protected species within the marine environment and their responsibility to implement the mitigations to be followed.
- A Marine Mammal Protection Plan (MMPP) including reference to marine mammals has been prepared in order to reduce risk of injury and disturbance to marine mammals resulting from geophysical survey operations (this is aligned to JNCC 2017 guidelines).

Further details are provided in the attached Risk Assessment.

4. Consideration of designated sites

Designated Areas: Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Information on designated sites is available on the JNCC website.

- (a) Will any part of the proposed activity fall within /or adjacent to an area covered by a designated site eg SAC, MPA?

Yes ☒ No ☐

- (b) Please give the name of the designated site(s) and either the outcome of your consultations or the reason why you have not consulted (see note 4). Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

Southern Trench NCMPS. This site is designated for minke whale, burrowed mud, fronts, Quaternary of Scotland, submarine mass movement and shelf deep.

Following consultation with NatureScot, the proposed survey activities are unlikely to affect the benthic features that this site is designated for.

Further details are provided in Section 4 of the attached Risk Assessment.

5. Activities to be Licenced

Proposed Methods

(a) Please complete all relevant columns in the table below to indicate the methods you propose to use, the activity involved and the time period in which you propose to use each method. This information will be used when preparing the licence to cover activities that would otherwise be unlawful, and failure to give full details may result in an inappropriate licence being issued.

Activity to be licensed (please tick)					Time period		
Capture / Possess / Keep	Kill (exceptional circumstances only)	Injure	Transport / Sell / Exchange	Disturb	Method to be used, (e.g. piling)	From	To
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SBP	1st July 2022	30th September 2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USBL	1st July 2022	30th September 2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

6. Purposes of the licence application (tick one box only)

A licence can only be issued if 3 specific legal tests are met. The section below relates to the first of these tests. The options shown are taken from The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works

- (a) Interests of public health or public safety safety (we will require evidence that there is a risk to public health or public safety e.g. an imminent risk of flooding) Regulation 49(6)(a)
Please complete Annex A ☐
- (b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest *including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment* Regulation 49(6)(a)
Please complete Annex B ☒
- (c) Preventing serious damage to fisheries Regulation 49(6)(b)
Please complete Annex C ☐
- (d) Preventing serious damage to property. Regulation 49(6)(c)
Please complete Annex C ☐
- (e) Protecting wild flora or fauna or conserving natural habitats Regulation 49(6)(d)
Please complete Annex D ☐
- (f) Preventing the spread of disease Regulation 49(6)(e)
Please complete Annex E ☐
- (g) For scientific or educational purposes 49(6)(f)
Please complete Annex D ☐
- (h) Re-population of an area with, or the re-introduction into an area of, wild animals or wild plants (including any breeding or artificial propagation necessary for those purposes), Regulation 49(6)(g)
Please complete Annex D ☐

7. Satisfactory alternatives

This relates to the second of the legal tests which must be satisfied. Please explain why there is no satisfactory alternative to carrying out the proposed work affecting the species. You must describe all possible alternatives which were considered and why they were considered unsuitable. You must also consider the option of not undertaking the work. **It is not acceptable to state that 'there is no alternative'.**

SBES have considered several options in relation to the requirements for the geophysical survey of the array area:

Option 1: Do not undertake the geophysical survey activities, resulting in no data being available of the seabed in the offshore array area and export cable corridor. However, gathering seabed information as part of surveys is a key element to inform the EIA, which will aim to minimise risks to the environment from the installation and operation of the future Project Salamander windfarm. For this, not undertaking the survey is not considered to be a viable option.

Option 2: Undertake the geophysical survey with equipment that results in limited impacts to EPS species (i.e. SSS, MBES, SBES only). This would limit the data that SBES would collect as part of the scope, while still involving the presence of a vessel for a significant number of days. The equipment that SBES plan to use as part of the survey have been carefully selected in order to obtain the relevant data to inform the EIA and overall project design. The sole use of SSS, MBES or SBES would not provide the seabed depth penetration required to obtain subsurface information of the required standard. Therefore, it is not considered that this is a viable option.

Option 3: Undertake the geophysical survey over a different location. SBES has selected this site to develop the future floating windfarm. Surveying an alternative location would mean gathering information over an area following the conclusion of the ScotWind licence awards (so unlikely to get an lease area) and therefore, gathering data for an area over which no development would be undertaken by SBES. In addition, it is not possible to reduce the size of the proposed survey area as this encompasses the array area. This is not considered to be a viable option.

Option 4: Undertake the survey at a different time of year, avoiding potentially sensitive periods for EPS species (for example periods of typical higher densities); white sided dolphin: May-August, bottlenose dolphin: March - April, harbour porpoise: May - August; killer whales: October - March and white beaked dolphin: June to September (Cetacean Research and Rescue Unit, 2021). Minke whale are also spotted between May and September (NatureScot, 2020). SBES have selected to undertake the survey from July 2022. Surveys typically occur during the spring and summer months in order to avoid or minimise any delays due to weather downtime. Additionally, the EPS risk assessment undertaken to support this application indicates that there is unlikely to be a significant impact to the cetaceans species that may be present. The survey being conducted in the early part of the year will maximise the good weather availability to allow the survey to be completed with the shortest survey duration. Undertaking a survey at an alternative time, such as later on in the year, would likely result in delays due to bad weather, and therefore the vessel being onsite for longer. Therefore, a survey later in the year is not the preferred option. Nominal mitigation measures will in place (in line with the JNCC guideline) which will further minimise potential impacts to EPS species. In addition, SBES require the results from the survey to inform the EIA process as early as possible, and delaying the survey would impact the EIA process and timeline.

Option 5: To undertake the geophysical survey activities, in conjunction with undertaking an EPS Risk Assessment. The Risk Assessment will identify and determine a mitigation strategy for the survey activities, such that the conservation status of EPS and other protected species present in the survey area or adjacent waters where a disturbance may be perceived, are protected through the use of appropriate protocols i.e. MMO following the JNCC geophysical survey guidelines. This would ensure that the requirements of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

SBES have determined that Option 5 will be progressed, as it will allow geophysical surveys to progress and support the future development on the offshore array area. This future work is required to obtain the relevant seabed and environmental information to design the Project Salamander windfarm. The survey will be undertaken while maintaining the favourable conservation status of cetaceans within the survey area or adjacent waters.

8. Other Licences / Consents

Please detail below all licences / consents you have applied for or received. **Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg Marine licence).**

Type of Licence / Consent (e.g. Marine Licence)	Date Applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of licence / consent
Marine Licence Exemption	28/04/2022	TBC	
Marine Works Licence	02/05/2022	TBC	
Marine Noise Registry	06/05/2022	2910	
Inshore EPS licence	06/05/2022	TBC	

9. Noise Monitoring

Please indicate if any of the following noise generating activities will be taking place during the operations:

Use of explosives ☐ Piling ☐ Use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices ☐
Survey equipment operating in the range 10 Hz – 10kHz ☒

If you have ticked any of the above boxes please complete a Proposed Activity form in the Marine Noise Registry at: <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>.

Please note the form must only be completed once for each activity. If you have already completed a form for this activity (eg through the marine licensing process) please give details.

N/A

EPS licence applications will not be accepted until this form has been completed and submitted.

10. Privacy notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) has a range of statutory responsibilities including determining applications for licences to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Basking shark licences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

MS-LOT will, where necessary, process personal information including: names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers to determine a licence application. Personal information will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB. Email: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot

Have you remembered to enclose Supporting Information with your application, as described in the accompanying guidance? Please check

Completed Application form	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Completed Annex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Map / Chart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correct co-ordinates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Additional information / EPS risk assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part C. Declarations

11. I have read and understand the guidance provided in this application form. I declare that the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these particulars.

I authorise employees or representatives of the Scottish Ministers to enter the site which is subject to this application for the purpose of monitoring and inspecting the permitted works.

Warning

The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence. Failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence is an offence under The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The Scottish Ministers can modify or revoke a licence at any time, provided there are good reasons. Any licence that may be issued is likely to be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false information was provided and resulted in the issue of a licence.

Under The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, any person who in order to obtain a licence knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. Any person found guilty of such offences is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or on conviction on indictment, to a fine.

Note: Previous convictions for wildlife offences will be taken into account and in some cases may mean that the Scottish Ministers do not consider it appropriate to grant a licence.

Signature of the Applicant

Nichola Lacey

Digitally signed by Nichola Lacey
Date: 2022.05.06 08:16:51
+01'00'

On behalf of Simply Blue Energy (Scotland)

Date

06/05/2022

(The person named at part 1)

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

NICHOLA LACEY

Note – If signing on behalf of a company, please append your signature with “on behalf of *Company Name*”.

The completed application should be signed and sent to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to MS.Marinelicensing@gov.scot

Please remember to include all supporting information.

Licensing Operations Team
Marine Scotland
EPS Division
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 2017 Regulations and other legislation.

Annex A

Only to be completed if you selected *for Preserving public health or public safety* in Question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

Give details of the risk to public health or safety

How has the risk been identified. Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity address the identified risk

Annex B

Only to be completed if you selected for *Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment)* in Question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What benefits will be provided by the proposed activity? Give details and indicate if they are social, economic or environmental. Please indicate if the benefits are short or long term.

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring secure, reliable and affordable energy supplies (i.e. social and economic benefits), within the context of long-term decarbonisation of energy generation (i.e. environmental benefits). The continued growth of the renewable energy sector in Scotland is an essential feature of the future clean energy system and a key driver of economic growth (Scottish Government, 2020). The development of the Project Salamander proposed windfarm site is an important step in the continued growth of renewable energy in Scotland.

Benefits also include:

Social: improving the supply of clean energy, making it more accessible and more affordable to the population.

Economic: job creation

In addition, the proposed windfarm site will represent a significant contribution to the development of Scotland's energy transition infrastructure, economy, and skills, creating new opportunities and long-term, high-quality jobs. This will provide long term environmental benefits associated with supply of renewable energy, and long term social and economic benefits associated with job creation and the investment associated with the project in, for example, ports and harbours.

What public interest will be served? Who will benefit from the proposed activity? Does the proposed activity address a need?

The project aims to contribute to the Scotland's target of 11GW of offshore wind by 2030 and the UK's 40GW target for 2030.

The development of the windfarm will serve to provide UK homes/businesses with a renewable source of power and will create jobs for the various roles required.

The general population will serve to benefit from the proposed activity. The activity will be beneficial to the environment as a low carbon energy source.

The proposed activity will serve to address the demand for cleaner sources of energy in line with the UK Government's goals and objectives.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

If the proposed survey activities do not go ahead the geophysical and benthic data for the proposed windfarm site cannot be collected to inform the design, layout and environmental impact assessment. The proposed survey operations are required to facilitate the progression of developments of a proposed windfarm, which will allow an increase in renewable energy generation capacity, and decrease the national reliance on fossil fuels. Hence, the survey activities constitute work of an overriding public interest whilst presenting a minimal and temporary disturbance in a limited area.

Does the proposed activity support any local regional or national policies? Please give details.

The wider project is aligned with the following

- Scottish Government Offshore Wind Policy Statement.
- Offshore Wind Sector Deal.
- Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC) vision and goals.
- Scottish Government Energy Strategy: Position Statement.

In recognising the importance of reducing carbon emissions, the EU, UK and Scottish Government have all committed to reduce emissions and increase the use of renewable energy:

- In 2009 the EU introduced Directive 2009/28/EC on the Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, which set renewable energy targets for each member state. The Directive imposed on the UK a mandatory national target of deriving 15% of gross final energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020.
- The Climate Change Act 2008, which commits the UK to a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 80% by 2050 and 34% by 2020; and
- The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 sets increased targets from those identified in The Climate Change (Scotland) Act, 2009, for the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions. Scottish Emissions Reductions Targets include a reduction of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045, with interim targets for reductions of at least 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. The 2019 Act also enables a Just Transition to a net zero economy and society, ensuring the journey is fair and creates a better future for everyone – regardless of where they live, what they do, and who they are.

Annex C

Only to be completed if you selected for *Preventing serious damage to property, or to fisheries* in Question 6 of the application form.

Please complete all questions

What serious damage has occurred or will occur if the proposed activity does not go ahead. Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent serious damage? Please give details of any expert advice received.

Annex D

Only to be completed if you selected;

for protecting wild flora or fauna or conserving natural habitats,

for scientific or educational purposes,

for re-population of an area with, or the re-introduction into an area of, wild animals or wild plants (including any breeding or artificial propagation necessary for those purposes

in Question 6 of the application form

Please explain how the proposed work falls under the purpose selected

Annex E

Only to be completed if you selected for *Preventing the spread of disease* in Question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What disease(s) is / are at risk of being spread if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent the spread of disease? Please give details of any expert advice received.