

BT

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted] ; [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026
Date: 13 February 2026 15:39:56
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

General

Dear Claire

That's fine that's more than enough space for BT.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

Nad

Nadeem Qureshi

Subsea(Commercial Agreements),Network Delivery Professional
Networks

[Redacted]

T: +44 331 620 1617
[Redacted]

[Subsea Front Door Request](#)



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General

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 13 February 2026 13:59
To: [Redacted] MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]
[Redacted]
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026

Dear Nad,

Thank you for getting back to MD-LOT so quickly, based on the MD-LOT check the closest BT asset is the Northern Lights Dunnet Head to Skaili telecom cable route, approx. 35km from the development area.

Kind regards
Claire

Claire McGregor (she/her)
Marine Licensing and Consenting Casework Officer, Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
Scottish Government, Marine laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB
T: 0300 244 5046
[Redacted]

The Scottish Government

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[Marine Directorate](#) | [Marine Directorate Blog](#) | [@ScotGovMarine](#) | [Marine Directorate LinkedIn](#)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 13 February 2026 10:29
To: MD Marine Renewables <MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot>

Cc:

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026

General

Dear Claire,

Many thanks for your notice however are there any BT assets that may be affected with in the area?

Many thanks in advance

Nad

Nadeem Qureshi

Subsea(Commercial Agreements),Network Delivery Professional
Networks

[Redacted]

T: +44 331 620 1617

[Redacted]

[Subsea Front Door Request](#)



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BT Group plc
Radio Network Protection

From: radionetworkprotection@bt.com
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#) [Redacted]
Cc:
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026 - WID14239
Date: 07 March 2026 09:09:01
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

General



-
-
OUR REF: WID14239

Thank you for your email.

We have studied this proposal using the variation information provided with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links.

The conclusion is, as this is an offshore development and there appears to be no change to the proposed turbine locations, the project indicated should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.

BT requires 100m minimum clearance from any structure at height to the radio link path. It should be noted that this decision is for the date of its issue, includes no micro-siting, as the use of the spectrum is dynamic and can change on an ongoing basis. Therefore, please reconsult us if there are any changes during the planning process with heights and locations of any structures, and its finalisation, as we may have new links assigned by Ofcom over its duration.

Please note this refers to BT Radio Links only, you will need to contact other providers separately for information relating to other supplier links / equipment.

Please direct all queries to radionetworkprotection@bt.com

Kind regards
[Redacted]

Networks Radio Planner
Radio & Satellite Platforms



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Fisheries Management Scotland

From: [Redacted]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026
Date: 30 March 2026 15:58:49
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Dear Claire,

Thank you for getting in touch and apologies for missing the further deadline. We are struggling with capacity to respond to the multiple applications coming to FMS. In reality, and given leave over Easter, I don't think it will be possible for us to respond in a reasonable timeframe. Please therefore mark FMS as a nil return.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Fisheries Management Scotland
11 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2AS
Tel: 0131 221 6567 | [Redacted]
www.fms.scot

Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd Safeguarding

From: [Safeguarding](#)
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026
Date: 20 March 2026 16:34:48
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[values2025_49f0881e-b581-44a4-b961-1aecd2620b56.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Your Ref: MD-00011615

Our Ref: 2026/052/WIC

Dear Sir/Madam,

HIAL has been consulted on the above proposed development amendment, received by this office on: 12/02/2026

The development has been assessed with 300m tip heights in the area bounded by Array Boundary Coordinates.

With reference to the above proposal, our preliminary assessment shows that, at the given position and height, this development would not infringe the safeguarding criteria and operation of Wick Airport.

Therefore, Highlands and Islands Airports Limited has no objections to the proposed **three WTG design scenarios**.

Any variation of the parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form, and finishing materials) then as a statutory consultee HIAL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission, or any consent being granted.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]



Safeguarding
Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd
Inverness Airport Dalcross IV2 7JB
www.hial.co.uk

Our Values



Historic Environment Scotland



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

By email to:

MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot
Marine Directorate (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

Our case ID: 300046189
Your ref: MD-00011615
19 March 2026

Dear Marine Directorate

The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 & The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - Section 36C and Marine Licence Variation Screening Report

Thank you for consulting us on the above Screening Report. We received the consultation on 12 February 2026.

We have reviewed the report and considered the proposed development in terms of our historic environment interests. This covers cultural World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments and their settings, category A-listed buildings and their settings, inventory gardens and designed landscapes, inventory battlefields and Historic Marine Protected Areas.

From 1 January 2025 we no longer provide advice on undesignated underwater cultural heritage. This includes the preparation of documents for post-consent activities including Written Schemes of Investigation or Protocols for Archaeological Discoveries. For EIA projects, the relevant competent authority must ensure that they have access to sufficient expertise to examine the EIA Report in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The relevant archaeological and cultural heritage advisors will also be able to offer advice on impacts on the historic environment. This may include topics covered by [our advice-giving role](#), and also other topics such as unscheduled archaeology, category B and C listed buildings, and conservation areas.

Our advice

From the information provided we understand that the proposed variation comprises a refinement to the consented turbine design parameters for the project to enable an increase in rotor diameter and a decrease in air gap.

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH
Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**
VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

We have considered the information received and we do not consider that the proposed variation would result in further significant impacts on our interests. Therefore, we do not have any further comments to make on the proposals.

Our decision not to provide comments should not be taken as our support for the proposals. This application should be determined in accordance with national and local policy on development affecting the historic environment, together with related policy guidance.

Further information

Decisions that affect the historic environment should take the [Historic Environment Policy for Scotland](#) (HEPS) into account as a material consideration. HEPS is supported by our [Managing Change guidance series](#).

We hope this is helpful. If you would like to submit more information about this or any other proposed development to us for comment, please send it to our consultations mailbox, hmconsultations@hes.scot. If you have questions about this response [Redacted]
[Redacted]

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Joint Radio Company

From: [Joint Radio Company](#)
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - MD-00011615
Date: 13 February 2026 13:32:58

If any details of this proposal change, particularly the position or scale of any turbine(s), this clearance will be void and re-evaluation of the proposal will be necessary.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Site Name:

Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm

MD-00011615

Site Centre / Turbine(s) at NGR:

No position found but is 4.5km offshore and not near any links.

Development Radius: Up to 5.85km² (reduced from 10km²)

Max Hub Height: 190m **Max Rotor Radius:** 125m

This proposal is **cleared** with respect to radio link infrastructure operated by the local energy networks.

JRC analyses proposals for wind farms on behalf of the UK Fuel & Power Industry. This is to assess their potential to interfere with radio systems operated by utility companies in support of their regulatory operational requirements.

In the case of this proposed wind energy development, JRC does not foresee any potential problems based on known interference scenarios and the data you have provided. However, if any details of the wind farm change, particularly the disposition or scale of any turbine(s), it will be necessary to re-evaluate the proposal. Please note that due to the large number of adjacent radio links in this vicinity, which have been taken into account, clearance is given specifically for a location within the declared grid reference (quoted above).

In making this judgement, JRC has used its best endeavours with the available data, although we recognise that there may be effects which are as yet unknown or inadequately predicted. JRC cannot therefore be held liable if subsequently problems arise that we have not predicted.

It should be noted that this clearance pertains only to the date of its issue. As the use of the spectrum is dynamic, the use of the band is changing on an ongoing basis and consequently, you are advised to seek re-coordination prior to submitting a planning application, as this will negate the possibility of an objection being raised at that time as a consequence of any links assigned between your enquiry and the finalisation of your project.

JRC offers a range of radio planning and analysis services. If you require any assistance, please contact us by phone or email.

Regards

Wind Farm Team

Friars House
Manor House Drive
Coventry CV1 2TE
United Kingdom

Office: 02476 932 185

JRC Ltd. is a Joint Venture between the Energy Networks Association (on behalf of the UK Energy Industries) and National Grid.

Registered in England & Wales: 2990041

[About The JRC](#) | [Joint Radio Company](#) | [JRC](#)

We maintain your personal contact details and are compliant with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) for the purpose of 'Legitimate Interest' for communication with you. If you would like to be removed, please contact anita.lad@jrc.co.uk.

On Thu, 12 Feb at 8:12 AM , scottish government <md.marinerenewables@gov.scot> wrote:

Marine Analytical Unit (MAU)

From: [Redacted]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#); [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - Dounreay, Caithness - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Variation Application - Advice Requested by 20 March 2026
Date: 23 February 2026 13:01:59
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Claire,

The applicant states “*No new impacts are identified as a result of the design refinements and the findings of the Original EIAR remain valid*”. The MAU is content with this, and is confirming a nil response as there have been no changes to the socio-economic section of the application.

Best regards,
[Redacted]

Maritime & Coastguard Agency

From: [navigation.safety](#)
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc:

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026

Date: 20 March 2026 10:00:43

Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good morning, [Redacted]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application from Highland Wind Limited pertaining to the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm to vary the existing section 36 consent and associated marine licence. The Marine Safety and PNT Services team of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has reviewed the documents received and would like to comment as follows:

It is noted from your correspondence and the screening report that the applicant is seeking to vary the following:

- Increase in rotor diameter from 1 x wind turbine generators (“WTG”) with rotor diameter of 220 metres (“m”) and 5 x WTGs with rotor diameter of 250 m, to a maximum of 6 x WTGs with rotor diameter 260 m;
- Reduction in air gap from 35 m to a minimum of 28 m;
- Increase in rotor swept area from 283,448 square metres (“m²”) to 318,557 m².
- Reduction in blade width from 7 m to a maximum of 6.93 m;
- Reduction in revolutions per minute from 8 to a maximum of 6.61; and
- Reduction in operational time from an average of 95% (operational) and 5% (downtime) to an average of 88% (operational) and 12% (downtime).

We also acknowledge the three construction scenarios that are outlined in the correspondence and section 3.1 of the screening report. We further note in Table 4.2 that the applicant has stated:

‘Under the three WTG design scenarios proposed, there will be no increase in WTG number or the number of substructures, mooring lines, anchors, inter array and export cables, or scour/cable protection required. As a result, there will be no change to the potential impacts on shipping and navigation compared to those assessed within Variation 01 and impacts compared to the Original EIA remain reduced.’

Furthermore, in relation to the three construction scenarios in section 3.1 the applicant stated:

‘The design refinements proposed will enable the construction of one of three potential WTG design scenarios that are under consideration for the Project. Each of the three design scenarios has a proposed number of WTGs, rotor diameter

and air gap and it should be noted that only one design scenario will be constructed with that scenario confirmed and approved within the Project's Design Specification and Layout Plan (DSLP) prior to construction.'

We are content with this approach and would like to remind the applicant that the MCA and MD-LOT should be consulted for final comment on the DSLP before construction.

The MCA confirms we have no objections to the variation of the existing section 36 consent and associated marine licence on this occasion. This is on the understanding that all maritime safety legislation is adhered to, and that the conditions and advisories that are unaffected by this application continue to be followed.

If you have any questions on this response, please let us know.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Offshore Renewables Project Lead
Marine Safety and PNT Services

[Redacted]



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Maritime & Coastguard Agency

Bay 2/25, Spring Place
105 Commercial Road,
Southampton SO15 1EG



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www.gov.uk/mca

Ministry of Defence



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Wendy Talbot
Assistant Safeguarding Manager
Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
St George's House
DMS Whittington
Lichfield, Staffordshire
WS14 9PY
United Kingdom

Application Ref: 00011615

Our Reference: DIO10035413

E-mail: DIO-Safeguarding-Wind@mod.gov.uk

Claire McGregor
Scottish Government
Licensing Operations Team
Marine Directorate
Marine Laboratory
375 Victoria Road
ABERDEEN
AB11 9DB

27 March 2026

Dear Claire

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

The Electricity Generating Stations (Applications for Variation of Consent) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - Dounreay, Caithness

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above Section 36C and marine licence application to vary consent granted to construct and operate the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm received by this office on 12 February 2026.

I write to confirm the safeguarding position of the MOD regarding this variation of consent application.

The consented development consists of up to 6 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) with a maximum blade tip height of 300 metres (m) above Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT) and maximum rotor diameter of 250m, which was a variation on the original consent granted for up to 7 WTGs with a maximum blade tip height of 320m and maximum rotor diameter of 260m. The MOD responded to the original consultation on 2 November 2022 with the following requirements:-

- for Aviation Lighting on all structures, permanent and temporary, with a height of 50m or greater above Mean Sea Level (MSL)
- for Aviation Charting and Safety Management
- for a transmission cable installation works management plan

Through this s36C and marine licence application it is proposed to vary the following consented parameters:

- Increase in rotor diameter from 1 x WTG with rotor diameter of 220m and 5 x WTGs with rotor diameter of 250m, to a maximum of 6 x WTGs with rotor diameter 260m
- Reduction in air gap from 35m to a minimum of 28m
- Increase in rotor swept area from 283,448 square metres ("m²") to 318,557m²
- Reduction in blade width from 7m to a maximum of 6.93m
- Reduction in revolutions per minute (p/m) from 8 to a maximum of 6.61 p/m, and
- Reduction in operational time from an average of 95% (operational) and 5% (downtime) to an average of 88% (operational) and 12% (downtime).

The MOD has assessed the proposed changes and can confirm that the position detailed in the response dated 2 November 2022 remains extant. The MOD have reviewed Conditions 10, 16 and 24 on the consent granted 28 July 2023 and they are deemed acceptable to the MOD. Provided these conditions are carried over to any new consent granted as a result of this consultation the MOD have no objection to this application to vary the s36C and marine licence.

I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Wendy Talbot
Assistant Safeguarding Manager

National Air Traffic Services

From: [NATS Safeguarding](#)
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026 [SG23851]
Date: 18 February 2026 08:50:06
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)

Our Ref: SG23851

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.

However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.

If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.

Yours faithfully

NATS

NATS Safeguarding

E: natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.co.uk



NATS Internal

NatureScot

[Redacted]

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

18 March 2026
Our ref: CNS REN DS
Project Highland
(Pentland)

Dear [Redacted]

PENTLAND FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND FARM – SECTION 36 & MARINE LICENCES VARIATION

APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 36C OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (AS AMENDED) TO VARY THE CONSENT GRANTED UNDER SECTION 36 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

Thank you for consulting NatureScot on Highland Wind Limited's application to vary their existing Section 36 consent and associated marine license for the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm.

We have reviewed the section 36C consent and marine licence variation application (Reference number: 00010577/00010578/00011615), and we provide our advice below.

Variation proposal

This variation proposal (V02) is seeking to refine the following project parameters:

- Increase in rotor diameter from 1 x wind turbine generators ("WTG") with rotor diameter of 220 metres ("m") and 5 x WTGs with rotor diameter of 250 m, to a maximum of 6 x WTGs with rotor diameter 260m;
- Reduction in air gap from 35 m to a minimum of 28m;
- Increase in rotor swept area from 283,448 square metres ("m²") to 318,557 m².
- Reduction in blade width from 7 m to a maximum of 6.93m.
- Reduction in revolutions per minute from 8 to a maximum of 6.61; and
- Reduction in operational time from an average of 95% (operational) and 5% (downtime) to an average of 88% (operational) and 12% (downtime).

Additionally, Highland Wind Ltd plan to pursue one of the following three WTG design scenarios from within their project design envelope:

1. Design Scenario 1: 6 x WTGs with rotor diameter 260 m and air gap of 30 m
2. Design Scenario 2: 5 x WTGs with rotor diameter 260 m and air gap of 28 m
3. Design Scenario 3: 6 x WTGs with rotor diameter 236 m and air gap of 28 m

Background

NatureScot were consulted at screening for this variation proposal, which constitutes the second variation (V02). In our advice, dated 30th October 2025, we agreed that the key marine ornithological concerns related to kittiwake as a feature of the North Caithness Cliffs SPA, and that a focussed assessment should look at the project alone and in-combination impacts of the proposed variation.

This variation proposes to reduce all project parameters, other than the rotor swept area, which will be increased from both the original consent and primary variation. The original maximum value was 416,573m² which increases to a maximum of 318,557m² in this variation request.

NatureScot advice

Ornithology

Overall, we are broadly content that the applicants have followed our guidance and sought clarification on aspects to agree approaches as part of pre-submission discussions to enable a clear, consistent assessment, including for the cumulative impacts approach. We provide more detailed advice on the assessment below.

We also largely agree with the assessment that this variation overall presents a reduction in predicted impacts and conclude no adverse effect on site integrity for kittiwake at North Caithness Cliffs SPA. However, we provide more detail around scenarios assessed and interpretation below.

Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA)

The Appropriate Assessment undertaken by MD LOT for the first variation (V01) identified potential impacts to kittiwake at North Caithness Cliffs SPA (hereafter NCC SPA), and Atlantic puffin at NCC SPA. The AA concluded no adverse effect on site integrity (AEOSI) for both puffin and kittiwake, either alone and in-combination.

As the footprint of the project has not changed from the original consent application, V01 and this current variation request (V02), impacts on puffin at NCC SPA are expected to remain unchanged, and we agree it is appropriate for puffin not to have been re-assessed.

The Applicant has re-assessed collision risk to kittiwake, and updated the distributional responses for kittiwake, which is appropriate. However, we note that a 0km buffer has been used opposed to NatureScot's recommended 2km buffer.

Collision Risk Modelling

The parameters used to assess collision risk are correct (Stoch LAB (Caneco *et al.*, 2022) used with Band 2 option, 1000 iterations and 50% upwind flights). We agree that the large array correction is not required for this project, as fewer than 100 turbines are planned.

We note that operational time values have been refined using high fidelity information for the array site including, wind speed data from deployed FLiDAR and hindcast data sets, as well as detailed information related to WTG cut-in (wind speed at which rotors will start turning) and cut-out speeds (wind speed at which rotors will stop turning to preserve integrity in high wind speeds), to define monthly operational estimates.

Collision estimates are presented for each airgap option for each design scenario, resulting in a large number of estimates. Overall, smaller air gaps result in higher collision estimates, as is to be expected for kittiwake. Design scenario 1 tended to have higher collisions predicted than the other two scenarios, with the highest collision estimate of all being 8.4 (4.92 – 13.04) annual mortalities for scenario 1 with a 27m airgap. Scenario 3 had the lowest collision estimates, with the lowest collision estimate of all being 3.13 (1.77 – 5.12) collisions predicted for scenario 3.

The Applicant provides a useful comparison of estimated collision mortalities apportioned to NCC SPA for each combination of design scenario and air gap, with a dotted line showing the consented 2.24 annual collisions predicted for V01. The results demonstrate that for V02 Design Scenario 1, estimated collision impacts are below those associated with the V01 consented design when airgaps exceed 33 m, while for Design Scenarios 2 and 3, estimated collision impacts are below those associated with the V01 consented design when airgaps exceed 31 m.

Distribution Response Modelling

SeabORD was used to update estimate mortalities from distributional responses for kittiwake.

The parameters and method used appear to be correct. As the footprint of the development is not planned to change, only 2 changes have been made to inputs for SeabORD from that run for V01 (section 2.2):

- The Applicant has used a windfarm footprint border that is effectively 0.
- The random seed used in the V01 application was not reported and so could not be replicated

NatureScot recommends that a 2km¹ boundary should be used for distributional response modelling, as for most species the zone of influence will extend beyond 2km. However, considering the explanation below, provided at the PFOWF S36 Variation meeting on the 6th of May 2025:

"Variation 01 AA: 'The AA notes that the application of a 2km windfarm footprint boundary in the displacement analysis is potentially being precautionary. Whilst the 2 km boundary was advised by NatureScot, the development is for six turbines, with over 1.5 km between turbines.... As such, this spacing could have the potential to reduce displacement impacts, meaning the assessment could be overly precautionary with the addition of the 2 km boundary.'"

This is a reasonable argument, however, as mentioned previously, this deviates from our advice and as such we have interpreted the results of this assessment with caution. The Applicant has provided the results of PVA modelling for both seabORD as per V01 application, and seabORD without the 2km buffer, allowing for a comparison of the two approaches.

The distributional response modelling using the same parameters as the original assessment of V01 (i.e. with a 2km buffer) predicted kittiwake mortalities of 1 adult and 9 chicks at NCC SPA as a result of the Project (HiDef, 2023²).

The distributional response modelling using V01 parameters but without a 2km buffer predicts mortalities of 0.9 adults and 1.0 chick from distributional effects of the Project.

¹ [Guidance Note 8: Marine Ornithology Advice for assessing the distributional response, displacement and barrier effects of marine birds](#)

² [Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm Section 36C Variation Application, Technical Appendix D2: Marine Ornithology SeabORD Displacement Modelling](#)

Therefore, the main difference in impact between the two approaches is that the use of a 2km buffer results in more chick mortalities. Adult mortalities are very similar between the two approaches.

For comparison, the original application's SeabORD modelling predicted up to 2.6 annual displacement mortalities of kittiwake apportioned to NCC SPA. Table B1.2 of the displacement analysis appendix (from the original application) shows that a total of 10.7 additional chick mortalities were estimated in the project present scenario (Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm Volume 3: Appendix A.12.4, Marine Ornithology: Displacement Analysis).

In-combination assessment

In-combination impacts were derived from the in-combination impact estimate for scenario 4d (including PFOWF in addition to sites in the Moray Firth and selected North Sea projects but excluding Berwick Bank) presented in V01 (HiDef, 2023). Section 2.3.4 of Appendix 3 lists the projects that have submitted Applications since the submission of V01, but also states '*where wind farm projects with potential connectivity to the kittiwake population of NCC SPA have submitted consent applications since the submission of the variation V01 application, those impacts have not been incorporated within the in-combination impact assessments undertaken, in relation to Variation 02 Design Scenarios*'.

Berwick Bank has not been included in the V02 in-combination assessment, in line with previous NatureScot advice, as adverse effects of site integrity for the kittiwake feature of NCC SPA should be fully compensated and therefore do not need to be included within the assessment impact totals. We are content with this approach.

We acknowledge that the estimated kittiwake mortalities to the NCC SPA population for Hornsea 4 OWF remain within Scenario 4d for the in-combination assessment for Variation, even when Hornsea 4 has been discontinued. We agree that this has added an additional degree of conservatism to the outcome of the in-combination assessments.

PVA Modelling

PVA modelling was performed with timescales of 25 – 50 years. This is appropriate as the project is planned to run for 25 years.

PVA results are presented for V02 design scenarios and three air gap options for each design scenario (Table 3.9 of the document). The V01 consented values are also presented for comparison.

Four assessment conditions are presented

- 1 – Project alone, updated CRM, SeabORD as per Variation 01 (2km buffer)
- 2 – Project alone, updated CRM, updated SeabORD (0km buffer)
- 3 – In-combination, updated CRM, SeabORD as per Variation 01 (2km buffer)
- 4 – In-combination, updated CRM, updated SeabORD (0km buffer)

Alone assessment:

In our response of 20th December 2023, we agreed with the conclusions of the Variation Report that the project alone would result in no adverse effect on site integrity for kittiwake as a qualifying interest of North Caithness Cliffs SPA. This was based on a total of 3.24 adult mortalities, 0.15 immature mortalities and 9 chick mortalities, resulting in a CPS of 0.983 (0.937-1.030) and a CGR of 0.999 (0.998-1.000) over 25 years.

The project alone assessment of V02 design scenarios resulted in CPS values ranging between 0.981 and 0.993, and CGR values ranging between 0.999 and 1. **These values are within the range of those consented for the V01 application.**

In-combination assessment:

In our response of 20th December 2023, we expressed concern over the in-combination scenario 4c (which we considered to be the most pertinent of the scenarios presented, noting that the Applicant considers scenario 4d (without Berwick Bank). The PVA assessment of scenario 4c resulted in a CPS of 0.905, which is potentially concerning low. However, we concluded that the upper range of the confidence interval for this metric (0.952) would result in no adverse effect on site integrity for kittiwake at NCC SPA. On the 12th of March 2024 we confirmed that our advice for scenario 4d, the scenario from which the consented values were taken, was the same. The consented values for scenario 4d were a CPS of 0.909 (0.863-0.955) and a CGR of 0.996 (0.995-0.998).

The in-combination assessment of V02 scenarios results in CPS values ranging between 0.908 and 0.919, and CGR values ranging between 0.996 and 0.997. These values are within the consented values for V01. Therefore, our conclusion for the in-combination assessment of V02 scenarios, with the air gaps which have been assessed through PVA (see table 2), remains the same as for the consented V01 values, that is, **we conclude that there will be no adverse effect on site integrity of the NCC SPA in respect to kittiwake.**

We hope this advice is helpful. Please contact myself in the first instance for any further advice, copying in our marine energy mailbox – marineenergy@nature.scot.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Marine Sustainability Advisor

[Redacted]

Northern Lighthouse Board



Northern Lighthouse Board

84 George Street
Edinburgh EH2 3DA

Tel: 0131 473 3100
Fax: 0131 220 2093

Website: www.nlb.org.uk
Email: enquiries@nlb.org.uk

Your Ref: MDL 00011615
Our Ref: AL/OPS/ML/WIND_004_26

Ms Clair McGregor
Licensing Operations Team – Marine Directorate
Scottish Government
Marine Laboratory
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

13 February 2026

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATIONS (APPLICATIONS FOR VARIATION OF CONSENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010, PART 4 MARINE LICENSING

00011615 – Highland Wind Limited – Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm – EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence – Variation

Thank you for your e-mail correspondence dated 12th February 2026 relating to the application submitted by **Highland Wind Ltd** for a variation to the existing Section 36 Consent and associated Marine Licence for the construction and operation of the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm.

Northern Lighthouse Board note the proposed amendments to the consented parameters, and recognise that with these changes, **Highland Wind Ltd** plan to pursue one of the following three WTG design scenarios from within the aforementioned project design envelope:

1. Design Scenario 1: 6 x WTGs with rotor diameter 260 m and air gap of 30 m
2. Design Scenario 2: 5 x WTGs with rotor diameter 260 m and air gap of 28 m
3. Design Scenario 3: 6 x WTGs with rotor diameter 236 m and air gap of 28 m

These amendment do not increase the number of structures located within the array beyond those previously consented.

NLB have no objection to the proposed variations, and will continue to engage with the applicant with the regard to the development of post-consent documentation.

NLB respects your privacy and is committed to protecting your personal data.
To find out more, please see our Privacy Notice at www.nlb.org.uk/legal-notice/

Yours sincerely
[Redacted]

Peter Douglas
Navigation Manager

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To find out more, please see our Privacy Notice at www.nlb.org.uk/legal-notices/

In Salutem Omnium
For the Safety of All

Orkney Islands Council
Harbour Authority

From: [harbours](#)
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026
Date: 19 March 2026 12:04:58
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Classification: OFFICIAL

Hi

Good afternoon!

We have a nil response to this consultation.

Kind regards

Marine Services and Transportation
Orkney Islands Council
Harbour Authority Building
Scapa, Orkney
KW15 1SD
Tel: 01856 873636
Email: harbour@orkney.gov.uk
Web: www.orkneyharbours.com



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Orkney Islands Council

From: [Marine Planning](#)
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - Dounreay, Caithness - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Variation Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 April 2026
Date: 02 March 2026 13:30:20
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Classification: NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Hi,

Thank you for consulting us. Orkney Islands Council have no comments to make on the Marine Licence variation for MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm.

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Murphy Gray | Graduate Marine Planner

Development and Marine Planning | Planning and Regulatory Services

Infrastructure and

01856 873535

[REDACTED]

council

[Marine Planning](#)

[OIC](#)



Development &
Marine Planning

d]

Public Representation

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36
Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026
Date: 02 March 2026 09:43:22
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Good morning,

I am replying on behalf of my client [Redacted] [Redacted] who is an objector to this proposal.

At this stage it is not considered that it would be appropriate to comment on the technical information pending resolution of the key legal/procedural issue that follows on directly from the recent Inner House Court decision and tests/reasoning in the Raeshaw Farms v Scottish Ministers statutory challenge case.

Applying the reasoning and tests from that case to this case it submitted that it is clear that the correct assessment of what is “the project” in EIA terms is the combination of the offshore and onshore works in that they are by the same applicant, would be mutually interdependent, and would be owned and operated by the same party or associated party.

It is formally submitted that the variation application be placed on hold until such time as a new single EIA for “the project” has been produced and advertised. The understanding of the Court outcome is that a decision maker cannot just exempt himself/herself from this aspect but must specifically address the question as to what is “the project”, although the Court did not prescribe that there would be a single outcome in every case. However, for this case, the tests clearly lead to the obvious conclusion set out above.

I have copied this reply to the appropriate Highland Council solicitor for information.

Regards,
[Redacted]

Royal Yachting Association Scotland

[Redacted]

From:
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026
Date: 13 March 2026 16:28:27
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hi [Redacted]

I write to inform you that RYA Scotland has no comment that they wish to make on this application.

Kind Regards

Pauline

[Redacted]
Business Support Lead

Royal Yachting Association Scotland
[Redacted]



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Scottish Fisherman's Federation

From: [Redacted]
To:
Cc:
Subject: Re: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026
Date: 20 March 2026 16:06:41
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[Outlook- Users.ali](#)

To the Marine Licensing and Consenting Casework Officer,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation regarding licence variation MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application. After reviewing the materials provided, we have no comments or suggestions to offer at this time.

Please consider this as a formal nil response from Scottish Fishermen's Federation.

I would appreciate confirmation of receipt of this email for our audit purposes.

Regards,
[Redacted]

Offshore Consents Assessments Manager

Scottish Fishermen's Federation

24 Rubislaw Terrace | Aberdeen | AB10 1XE
[Redacted]

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Registered Address | Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) | 24 Rubislaw Terrace | Aberdeen | AB10 1XE

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Scottish Environment Protection Agency

From: [Planning.North](#)
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: PCS-20008006 SEPA Response to MD-00011615
Date: 05 March 2026 15:53:01
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear Claire,

Thank you for your re-consultation email regarding the above.

We confirm our previous advice remains unchanged.

Regards

[Redacted]

Senior Planner

Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Buidheann Dion Àrainneachd na h-Alba

Working flexibly

Normal working hours currently Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00am-4:30pm

[Redacted]

📧 planning.north@sepa.org.uk

OFFICIAL

From: MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot <MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 March 2026 13:27

To: Planning.North <Planning.North@sepa.org.uk>

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: PCS-20008006 SEPA Response to MD-00011615

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.

[Redacted]

Thank you for your email regarding PCS-20008006 SEPA Response to MD-00011615, I can confirm the MD-LOT project team reviewed the standing advice and the advice provided to the previous variation to the section 36 and marine licence applications.

The MD-LOT project team agree the standing advice does not cover this application and has attached the advice from the previous variation to the section 36 and

marine licence applications SEPA ref: 10685. MD-LOT is seeking either confirmation that the previous advice is unchanged or specific advice on the current application if the previous advice has changed?. For clarification, this variation is for the wind farm array area only while the previous variation had an impact on the offshore transmission infrastructure area.

MD-LOT request a response by 20 March 2026, should this not be possible please advise at your earliest convenience providing an anticipated response time frame.

Thank you in advance

Kind regards

[Redacted]

Marine Licensing and Consenting Casework Officer, Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team

Scottish Government, Marine laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

T: 0300 244 5046

[Redacted]

The Scottish Government

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[Marine Directorate](#) | [Marine Directorate Blog](#) | [@ScotGovMarine](#) | [Marine Directorate LinkedIn](#)

From: Planning.North <Planning.North@sepa.org.uk>

Sent: 18 February 2026 10:37

To: MD Marine Renewables <MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot>

[Redacted]

Subject: PCS-20008006 SEPA Response to MD-00011615

To Whom It May Concern,

Electricity Act 1989 - Section 36

MD-00011615

Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm

Dounreay, Caithness

Thank you for the above consultation. Based on the information provided, it appears that this application falls below the thresholds for which SEPA provide site

specific advice. Please refer to our standing advice and other guidance which is available on our [website](#).

. In addition, please also refer to our SEPA standing advice for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Marine Scotland on marine consultations available [here](#).

If there is a significant site-specific issue, not addressed by our guidance or other information provided on our website, with which you would want our advice, then please reconsult us highlighting the issue in question and we will try our best to assist.

Kind regards,
[Redacted]

Senior Planning Officer



For the future of our environment

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi am fiosrachadh sa phost-d seo agus ceanglachan sam bith a tha na chois dìomhair, agus cha bu chòir am fiosrachadh a bhith air a chleachdadh le neach sam bith ach an luchd-faighinn a bha còir am fiosrachadh fhaighinn. Chan fhaod neach sam bith eile cothrom fhaighinn air an fhiosrachadh a tha sa phost-d no a tha an cois a' phuist-d, chan fhaod iad lethbhreac a dhèanamh dheth no a chleachdadh arithist. Mura h-ann dhuibhse a tha am post-d seo, feuch gun inns sibh dhuinn sa bhad le bhith cur post-d gu postmaster@sepa.org.uk. Togalach Aonghais Mhic a' Ghobhainn, 6 Craobhruid Parklands, Eurocentral, Baile a' Chuilinn, Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath, ML1 4WQ. Faodar conaltradh còmhla ri SEPA a sgrùdadh no a chlàradh no a sgaoileadh gus obrachadh èifeachdach an t-siostaim a ghlèidheadh agus airson adhbharan laghail eile.

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Transport Scotland

From: [Redacted]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026
Date: 17 March 2026 17:37:23
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[Redacted]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Variation Application to the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm (PFOWF) Section 36 Application.

Transport Scotland was consulted on the original 2020 Scoping Report for the PFOWF and provided comment in a letter dated 21 January 2021. In this, we noted that the potential impact in the increased traffic associated with construction would not exceed the Guidelines thresholds and no further traffic assessment was required at that time. We did note, however, that Abnormal Indivisible Loads were proposed and so, an AIL assessment was required.

In addition, we commented on an Addendum Scoping Report which supplemented the 2020 Scoping Report in regard to changes to the project description. A review of these changes and their potential impact resulted in the conclusion that our previous response remained valid. I understand that the development content as amended was granted consent in April 2024.

It is noted that the current application is for a Variation to the consented layout, comprising an increase in rotor diameter from 1 x turbine with a rotor diameter of 220m and 5 x turbines with rotor diameter of 250m, to a maximum of 6 turbines with rotor diameter 260m. I can confirm that Transport Scotland is satisfied that this increase in diameter is unlikely to have a significant impact in the number of trips generated and, therefore, we would have no further comment to make regarding this amendment. We would, however, request that in the event Abnormal Indivisible Loads are required, that the following Condition be attached to any consent that may be granted:

- Condition 1: Prior to commencement of abnormal deliveries to site, the proposed route for any abnormal loads on the trunk road network must be submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority, in consultation with Transport Scotland as the trunk roads authority.

Reason: To minimise interference and maintain the safety and free flow of traffic on the Trunk Road as a result of the traffic moving to and from the development.

- Condition 2: Prior to the movement of any abnormal load, any accommodation measures required on the trunk road network, including the removal of street furniture, junction widening and traffic management must be approved and implemented to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in consultation with Transport Scotland.

Reason: To minimise interference and maintain the safety and free flow of traffic on the Trunk Road as a result of the traffic moving to and from the development.

- Condition 3: Prior to the movement of any components and/or construction materials, any additional signing or temporary traffic control measures deemed necessary on the trunk road network due to the size or length of any loads being transported must be undertaken by a recognised QA traffic management consultant, to be approved by Transport Scotland.

Reason: To ensure that the transportation of any components/materials will not have any detrimental effect on the road and structures along the route.

I trust this is sufficient for your purposes,

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Development Management
Network Operations
Roads Delivery and Operations Directorate

transport.gov.scot

Transport Scotland 5th Floor 177 Bothwell Street Glasgow G2 7ER



TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
COMHDHAIL ALBA



I

The Highland Council

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - Dounreay, Caithness - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Variation Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 April 2026
Date: 23 April 2026 16:43:20
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hi Marc,

Apologies for the delayed response.

I can confirm that the Highland Council raises no objection to the proposed variation of Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm.

Kind Regards,

Jack

Jack Wiseman

Principal Planner- Strategic Projects Team
Planning & Building Standards I Development & Infrastructure Service
The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX
E: [Redacted]
T: 01463702573

You're invited to share feedback on your recent experience with Highland planning authority! On behalf of planning authorities across Scotland, the National Planning Improvement Team is undertaking an annual survey. This survey is intended to be filled out by all users of planning authorities in Scotland to collect your views on the service you have received. This is your opportunity to say what is working and where improvements could be made. It should only take a few moments of your time, it is completely anonymous, and all your responses help the planning authorities improve their offer to you. The National Planning Improvement team will publish the results of the survey at the beginning of next year and each planning authority will be provided with a breakdown for their area.

[National Planning Improvement - Customer and Stakeholder Survey 2025](#)

Follow up documentation for existing planning applications must be submitted via the 'Post Submission Additional Document' (PSAD) online form, quoting the correct application reference number at [ePlanning.scot](#). If your submission relates to the satisfaction of planning conditions for a National or Major development please upload the form available at <https://shorturl.at/APQT9> with your PSAD submission. This advice is given without prejudice to the future consideration of and decision on any application received by the Council. Register at consult.highland.gov.uk to be kept updated on Development Plan documents in Highland.

UK Chamber of Shipping

From: [Redacted]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: MD-00011615 - Highland Wind Limited - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm - EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Application - Consultation - Response Required by 20 March 2026
Date: 12 February 2026 13:51:07
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Dear Claire,

Thank you for the consultation. The Chamber of Shipping offers a nil return to the variation.

Kind regards,
Robert

Robert Merrylees
Policy Director (Shipping Industry & Research)

UK Chamber of Shipping
30 Park Street, London, SE1 9EQ

[Redacted]

www.ukchamberofshipping.com

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