

Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team
Marine Laboratory
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Mr Jack Henry
200 Dunkeld House
Perth
PH1 3AQ

03/08/2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Marine Licence Variation Request for Marine Licence MS-00011099.

Please consider this document and the enclosed application as commercially sensitive and subject to appropriate controls on the sharing of information relevant to national security.

Background

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks – Transmission (SSEN Transmission), the trading name for Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc ('the Applicant'), holds a licence under the Electricity Act 1989 for the transmission of electricity in the North of Scotland. In November 2025, the Applicant was granted consent for the construction of the Spittal-Peterhead High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Subsea Link ('the Project') through a Marine Licence (MS-00011099) issued under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

The Project comprises a new subsea HVDC electricity transmission link between Caithness (Spittal) and Aberdeenshire (Peterhead), collectively known as the Spittal to Peterhead HVDC Link Project.

The original Marine Licence application was supported by the following document, which is included with this application for reference:

- Spittal to Peterhead HVDC Link Project Marine Environmental Appraisal (LT360-SSEN-XX-XX-RP-MC-001).

The key components of the original application for the Project include:

- Installation of two HVDC cables, one Fibre Optic cable and a Dedicated Metallic Return as a single bundle of approximately 172 km in length;
- Landfall works, including the installation of ducts and Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) at both landfalls;
- Cable burial via ploughing, mechanical cutting or jet trenching;
- Installation of cable protection, including up to 516 concrete mattresses, 600 m of cast iron shells and up to 223,929.6 cubic metres of rock armour.

Marine Licence Variation Request

Following the continued development and refinement of the Project design, the Applicant is seeking a variation to the existing Marine Licence to incorporate a number of refinements to the Project Design Envelope assessed within the original MEA. All other aspects of the consented project not specifically described within this application for variation remain unchanged.

The Applicant considers that the proposed Project Design Refinements have been appropriately assessed within the enclosed MEA Addendum and are not predicted to give rise to new or materially different significant environmental effects from those previously reported. This supports a proportionate determination of this variation. No changes to embedded mitigation or licence conditions are proposed.

The following Project Design Refinements outline the proposed changes being sought by the Applicant:

- Trench excavation at Sinclair's Bay landfall;
- A project-specific rock berm design, with rock grading to withstand metocean conditions;
- Additional buoys, clump weights, filter unit bags (rock bags) and concrete blocks;
- Additional temperature monitoring cables within HDD ducts; and
- Additional deposits of lightweight subsea support mattresses.

A summary of the Project Design Refinements is presented in the table below. Further details are provided in Table 2-1 and Section 2 of the MEA Addendum (LT360-SSEN-XX-XX-RP-MC-007).

Enclosed Documentation

The following documents have been submitted alongside the Marine Licence Variation request:

- Spittal to Peterhead HVDC Link Project Marine Environmental Appraisal (LT360-SSEN-XX-XX-RP-MC-001); and
- Spittal to Peterhead HVDC Link Project Marine Environmental Appraisal Addendum (LT360-SSEN-XX-XX-RP-MC-007).

To support delivery of the Project in line with national 2030 commitments, the Applicant would welcome determination of this variation request by June 2027. SSEN Transmission remains committed to working collaboratively with MD-LOT and will provide information and resources in a timely manner to facilitate determination.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

Jack Henry

On behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks – Transmission

Table 1 Revised Consented Values

Type of material	Description	Inside 12 – Quantity & Dimensions (metric) of materials		Outside 12 – Quantity & Dimensions (metric) of materials	
Steel/Iron	Increased clump weight and chain	No.	clump weight and chain: 20	No.	clump weight and chain: 4
	Increase in Duct length. HDD Steel Duct Casing Length (Inside 12 nm: 5,072 m) -	Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)		Weight (kg/tonnes)	
Timber		No.		No.	
		Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)		Weight (kg/tonnes)	
Concrete	Additional Concrete Blocks	No.	Concrete Blocks: 6	No.	
	Lightweight Subsea Support Mats (4 m x 4 m).		Lightweight Subsea Support Mats: 9		
		Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)		Weight (kg/tonnes)	
Plastic/Synthetic	Material change from cast iron shell to PU or similar	No.		No.	
		Dimensions	600 m	Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)		Weight (kg/tonnes)	
Clay (< 0.004 mm)		No.		No.	
		Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)		Weight (kg/tonnes)	
Silt (0.004 mm - <0.063 mm)		No.		No.	
		Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)		Weight (kg/tonnes)	
Sand (0.063 mm - < 2.0 mm)		No.		No.	
		Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)		Weight (kg/tonnes)	
Gravel (2.0 mm - < 64.0 mm)	New addition of filter unit bags	No.	422	No.	
		Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)	3,376 t	Weight (kg/tonnes)	
Cobbles (64.0 mm - < 256.0 mm)	Revised Filter Rock Protection Cobbles - Increase of volume and change to 2"-8".	No.		No.	
		Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)	162,096 t, 98,240 m ³	Weight (kg/tonnes)	97,020 t, 58,799 m ³

Boulders ($\geq$ 256.0 mm)	Revised Rock Armour Protection Boulders - New rock grade of LMA 5/40. (30,645 t, 18,573 m ³) Revised Large Rock Armour Protection Boulders - New rock grade of LMA 10/60. (81,421 t, 42,853 m ³)	No.		No.	
		Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)	112,066 t, 61,426 m ³	Weight (kg/tonnes)	
Pipe		No.		No.	
		Dimensions		Dimensions	
		Weight (kg/tonnes)		Weight (kg/tonnes)	