



Appendix 1D

Stornoway Direction 16 June 2017





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Mr John Buswell
Stornoway Wind Farm Limited
EDF Energy
GSO Business Park
East Kilbride
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16 June 2017

Dear Mr Buswell

CONSENT AND DEEMED PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE STORNOWAY WIND FARM ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATION 1.5KM TO THE WEST OF THE TOWN OF STORNOWAY ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS

1. Thank you for your letter dated 31 March 2017 on behalf of Stornoway Wind Power Limited (“the Company”) seeking an extension to the timescale for implementation of the consent granted by Scottish Ministers on 7 September 2012 under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (“section 36 consent”) for the Stornoway Wind Farm on the Isle of Lewis.

2. The section 36 consent for the Stornoway Wind Farm was granted by Scottish Ministers to Lewis Wind Power Limited, a company having its registered office at c/o EDF Energy, GSO Business Park, East Kilbride G74 5PG, and Company Number SC225262. The Registrar of Companies for Scotland has certified on 21 March 2016 that under the Companies Act 2006, Lewis Wind Power Limited has changed its name to Stornoway Wind Farm Limited. The section 36 consent was varied by Scottish Ministers under section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 on 22 March 2016.

3. The section 36 consent was granted subject to conditions. Condition 2 of the section 36 consent states:

2. The Commencement of the Development shall be no later than 5 years from the date of this consent, or such other period as the Scottish Ministers may hereafter direct. If Commencement of the Development does not occur by the end of such period, then by no later than the date occurring 6 months after the end of the period, the Site and the ground shall be fully reinstated by the Company to the specification and satisfaction of the Scottish Ministers, following consultation with the Planning Authority.

Reason: *To ensure the Commencement of the Development is undertaken within five years*

4. Condition 2 was not altered by the variation, and in the absence of any direction from Scottish Ministers otherwise, continued to require that the section 36 consent be implemented by no later than five years from 7 September 2012.

Consultation

5. Scottish Ministers sought the views of the planning authority Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Historic Environment Scotland and Marine Scotland Science (MSS) regarding the request from the Company to extend the period for implementation of the section 36 consent by three years.

6. **The Comhairle nan Eilean Siar** confirmed that it does not object to the extension of the period for implementation requested.

7. **SEPA** confirmed it has no objection to the extension of the period for implementation requested. SEPA wishes to remind the Company that it will expect any proposed mitigation to be in line with best practice guidance at the time of commencement of the development.

8. **SNH** confirmed that there are no environmental changes relating to designated sites or issues of national importance which in its view could be affected by the proposed extension to the consent. SNH is aware that since the previous advice on the section 36 application was issued, that a small breeding population of hen harriers has established in Lewis, which has included breeding attempts within the consented development site. In the absence of field data on usage of the site by these birds, SNH is not able to say how they might be affected by the development. However, SNH advice is that any extension to the implementation date granted will have no more effect than the consent that has already been issued.

9. **Historic Environment Scotland** (formerly known as Historic Scotland) confirmed that it has no comments to make on the extension of the period for implementation requested.

10. **MSS** confirmed it does not object to the extension of the period for implementation requested. MSS highlighted that the Company should adhere to the current standard techniques and best practice guidance documents published at the time of and throughout the construction period of development. Mitigation in the form of an integrated Fisheries Monitoring and Management Plan, outlined in the planning conditions for the consented development, will establish up-to-date water quality and fish population data before, during and post construction.

Consideration

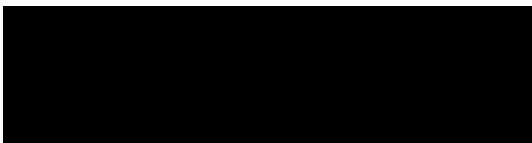
11. An environmental impact assessment of the proposed Stornoway Wind Farm has been carried out within the last 18 months in relation to the application to vary the section 36 consent which was granted. The Scottish Ministers have had regard to your letter of 31 March 2017, the previous environmental impact assessment of the development, and the recent advice from consultees summarised in paragraphs 6 to 10 of this letter, and conclude there is no disadvantage in allowing the additional time period requested to enable Stornoway Wind Farm to be fully realised.

Decision

12. Scottish Ministers have determined that the requested extension of 3 years to the date by which the consent must be implemented shall be approved, and direct that in relation to condition 2 of the section 36 consent granted on 7 September 2012, Commencement of the Development must be no later than 6 September 2020, or such other period as the Scottish Ministers may subsequently direct in writing.

13. If Commencement of the Development does not occur by the end of such period, then by no later than the date occurring 6 months after the end of the period, the Site (as defined in the consent granted on 7 September 2012) and the ground shall be fully reinstated by the Company to the specification and satisfaction of the Scottish Ministers, following consultation with the planning authority, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Yours sincerely



James McKenzie
Consents Manager, Energy Consents Unit
A member of staff of the Scottish Government
For and on behalf of the Scottish Ministers