ORIEL WINDFARM
OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Digital Office Centre
Balheary Road
Swords
Co. Dublin, July 22, 2022

RE: FS007383 Oriel Foreshore Licence Second Consultation

Dear Sirs,

We are responding to the submission of the Cooley Residents Group within the consultation process for the proposed Oriel Windfarm Foreshore Licence FS007383.

We have met representatives of the Cooley Residents Group to hear their views and intend to meet them again as part of the project's next phase of consultation with key stakeholders.

We would like to clarify the situation in relation to some of the issues raised in the submission.

When the Oriel wind farm project was originally proposed in 2007, the plan was for 55 turbines, the closest of which was to have been located 5 kilometres from the shore. As the project has evolved, the number of turbines has been reduced by 55% to 25, and the closest turbine will now be located 6 kilometres from the shore, which is 20% further out to sea.

There is no evidence that existing offshore wind farms have any negative impact on local crab and lobster populations. In fact, studies by the Holderness Fishing Industry Group on the Westermost Rough wind farm in the North Sea, off the Yorkshire coast, have demonstrated that wind farm construction and operation has no significant negative impact on the ecology of the European lobster.

The six-year study showed that lobster stocks remained healthy, and no detectable impact of the windfarm operation was identified for the shellfish. Westermost Rough is located within one of the largest commercial fishing grounds in Europe for European lobster, and the study was undertaken by scientists working on behalf of the local fishers.

In relation to noise, a noise assessment of the proposed drilling was completed and included in the supporting information for Appropriate Assessment submitted with the Foreshore Licence Application.

Correspondence address
Digital Office Centre Swords
Balheary Demense, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin
IRELAND

Registered office
Digital Office Centre Swords
Balheary Demense, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin
IRELAND

Board of Directors
Daniel O'Connor
Eric Antoons (BE)
François Van Leeuw (BE)
Ronan O'Flynn
Wim Colruyt (BE)

An Environmental Impact Statement Report and Natura Impact Statement to support an application for development consent are in preparation. These documents will be publicly available when a planning application can be made under the Maritime Area Planning Act. Potential impacts from the proposed development including noise, vibration and shadow flicker will be fully assessed within these reports.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

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Oriel Consents Manager