



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

Helen Croxson  
Navigation Safety  
Bay 2/24  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG  
UK

Your ref: MGN 543 Consultation  
Our ref:

20 January 2020

Dear Consultee,

**FORMAL 12 WEEK CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF MARINE GUIDANCE NOTES AND THE METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING THE MARINE NAVIGATIONAL RISKS, IN RELATION TO OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS**

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) guidance documents relating to Offshore Renewable Energy Installations have not been revised for some time, and there has been rapid growth and expansion in the renewables industry over the last few years.

As we enter The Crown Estate's Round 4 and The Crown Estate Scotland's new leasing of seabed rights, now is a good time to work with the multiple stakeholders and interested parties to update this guidance;

- a) to ensure it remains fit for purpose with regards to maintaining the safety of navigation, and the search and rescue capabilities in the UK, now and in the future;
- b) and, at the same time, ensure we continue to support the Government's targets for renewable energy in the UK by providing developers with useful guidance to facilitate the consenting process.

This consultation seeks your comments on the following three documents;

- 1) Revised Marine Guidance Note (MGN) Safety of Navigation: Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs) – Guidance on UK Navigational Practice, Safety and Emergency Response.

This will replace MGN 543 and is being updated in accordance with current practices, to provide more information on MCA's requirements, and to align with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

- 2) Revised Marine Guidance Note (MGN) Safety of Navigation - Guidance to Mariners operating in the vicinity of UK OREIs.

This will replace MGN 372 and is being updated to reflect progress made in the UK offshore renewables industry.

- 3) Revised Methodology for assessing the Navigational Safety and Emergency Response of Offshore Renewable Energy Installations

This will replace the existing Methodology document and has been amended to ensure it is more user-friendly and contains updated and relevant information for the development



HM Coastguard

consent application process. There are no new aspects introduced into this document apart from the reintroduction of IMO Formal Safety Assessment guidance.

The consultation period will run for **12 weeks**. Please send your responses to MCA by email to [navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk) or by post to the address at the top of this letter by 23:59 on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020**.

All three consultation documents will be available online shortly at [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication\\_filter\\_option=consultations](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication_filter_option=consultations)

### **Freedom of Information**

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department/MCA. The MCA will process your personal data in accordance with the data protection framework and, in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

### **Data Protection**

The MCA is carrying out this consultation to gather evidence. The consultation is being carried out in the public interest to inform the development of policy. The MCA will use your contact details to send you information about the consultation, for example if we need to ask follow-up questions, as part of its functions as a government department. Your email responses or letters will be used to update the consultation documents, and your contact details will be retained to keep you up to date on progress, and to inform you when the final published document is available. Your information will be kept secure and will not be used for any other purpose without your permission. Your contact details will be kept for the next two years, after which they will be deleted.

To find out more about how the MCA looks after personal data, your rights, and how to contact our data protection officer, please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency/about/personal-information-charter>

If you do not wish to remain on this list, please reply and let us know.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

*H Croxson*

Helen Croxson  
OREI Advisor  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency