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Liz Wells MRTPI
Consents Manager
National Grid Ventures
1-3 The Strand
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9 July 2021

Dear Ms Wells,

**CONTINENTAL LINK MULTI-PURPOSE INTERCONNECTOR:
REQUEST FOR DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 35 OF PLANNING ACT 2008**

The Secretary of State has been considering the request made by National Grid Ventures on 28 June 2021. In order to assist in deciding whether to give the Direction sought, the Secretary of State requests that you provide further clarification on the following:

- i) The request relates to a 1.8GW multi-purpose interconnector and explains that the *“Project enables offshore wind and interconnection to work together and to function as a pathfinder to a more integrated grid, rather than individual connections to the mainland being required for individual projects. This minimises the impact on coastal communities and the environment, since fewer connections are needed. It also makes the integration of future offshore wind developments cheaper by utilising the existing interconnector for grid access”*. The Secretary of State would like to receive more information to understand the basis for this statement. In particular, how many, and/or what capacity of, offshore windfarms could connect to an interconnector of this size without any limitation on the windfarm’s operation and how would connecting these windfarms then impact on its use as an interconnector; and
- ii) In the request it appears to state that, for the purpose of the Planning Act 2008, the onshore converter station and the offshore platforms housing switching stations and converter stations are the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and that all the cabling, including the interconnector itself, is associated development. The Secretary of State would like to know whether he understands the position correctly.

The Secretary of State would therefore welcome an explanation of:

- a. How the approach taken by National Grid Ventures is consistent with the definition of associated development in section 115(2) of the Planning Act 2008 and the DCLG guidance on associated development applications for major infrastructure projects (April 2013); and
- b. How, as the principle development, the onshore converter station and the offshore platforms housing switching stations and converter stations are Nationally Significant.

The Secretary of State has decided, therefore, in accordance with section 35A(4)(b), to request that the supplementary information is provided within 14 days from the date of this letter, so by no later than 23 July 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Libretto

Denise Libretto
Head of Planning