



**DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO (“THE SECRETARY OF STATE”) UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 RELATING TO THE HOPE MOOR WIND FARM**

By letter to the Secretary of State on 28 July 2025 (“the Direction Request”), Fred. Olsen Renewables Limited (“the Applicant”) formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power vested in him under section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”) to direct that the Hope Moor Wind Farm, as set out in the Direction Request, be treated as development for which development consent under the Planning Act 2008 is required.

The Secretary of State notes that the Direction Request of 28 July 2025 relates to –

- An onshore wind turbine generating station with a capacity of more than 100MW including wind turbine generators, concrete foundations, transformers and underground electrical cabling (the “Proposed Development”)

The Secretary of State is satisfied that –

- The Proposed Development is a project in the field of energy and development will be wholly within England;
- The Proposed Development does not fall within the existing definition of a “nationally significant infrastructure project” and therefore it is appropriate to consider use of the power in section 35(1) of the PA 2008; and
- The Applicant’s request constitutes a “qualifying request” in accordance with section 35ZA(11) of the PA 2008.

Having considered the details of the Applicant’s proposals as set out in the Direction Request and further noting that Durham County Council supports the request and North Yorkshire Council has not objected to the request, the Secretary of State is of the view that the Proposed Development is of national significance, for the reasons set out in the Annex below.

The Secretary of State does not make any further directions under s35ZA(5). It is not deemed appropriate to include details in this direction of associated development and the planning policy. Instead, these should be considered once an application for development consent of the Proposed Development is made and the final timings and content of the application are known.

Additionally, it is not deemed appropriate for this direction to confirm compliance with sections 42 and 47 of the PA 2008, as this is currently a statutory requirement for consideration at the application stage.

The Secretary of State considers that if the details of the Proposed Development change, before submitting any application to the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant may wish to seek confirmation from the Secretary of State that the development that

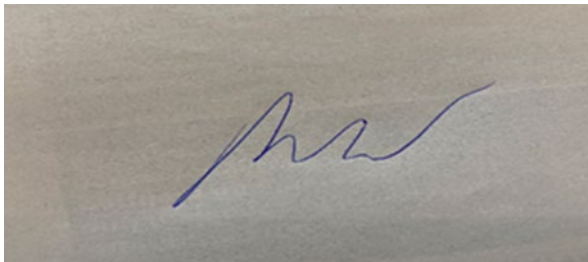
is the subject of the proposed application is the same as that for which the Direction is hereby given.

The Secretary of State has taken the decision within the conditions as required by sections 35A(2) and (5) of the PA 2008 and issues this Direction accordingly under sections 35(1) and 35ZA of the PA 2008.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTS that the Proposed Development is to be treated as development for which development consent is required.

This Direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for development consent which is made in relation to the Proposed Development.

Signed by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'DW', is written on a light-colored, textured surface.

David Wagstaff OBE  
Deputy Director – Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery  
For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security  
and Net Zero

21<sup>st</sup> August 2025

## **ANNEX**

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE DIRECTION**

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the Direction should be issued because

- The Proposed Development is of national significance as it a large-scale onshore wind farm with the capability of delivering over 100MW of renewable energy.
- The Proposed Development will play an important role in enabling an energy system that meets the UK's commitment to reduce carbon emissions and the Government's objectives to create a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply for consumers.