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By Email:

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Offshore windfarm array system consultation

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Offshore Energies UK (OEUK) is the leading trade body for the UK's integrating offshore energies industry. Our membership includes over 400 organisations with an interest in offshore oil, gas, carbon capture use and storage (CCUS), hydrogen, and wind. From operators to the supply chain and across the lifecycle from production to decommissioning, they are safely providing cleaner fuel, power, and products to Scotland and across the UK. Working together with our members, we are a driving force in ensuring security of energy supply while helping to meet its net zero ambitions. We work on behalf of the sector and our members to inform understanding with facts, evidence, and data, engage on a range of key issues and support the broader value of this industry in a changing energy landscape. The energy transition offers significant opportunities. Industry and governments cannot afford to get this wrong. Decisions made in the coming years at Westminster will dictate whether the UK can be at the forefront of the energy transition by attracting the trillion pounds of global investment needed to develop these capabilities.

The energy transition has the potential to be at the heart of the country's economic growth and prosperity, and to achieve the UK's ambitious offshore wind targets a sizeable offshore wind network must be developed at pace. With one of the world's largest wind fleets outside of China, the UK has the potential to be a leader in floating wind with such a network, expanding our energy mix, and helping the UK to maintain a homegrown energy transition.

To ensure we fully grasp this opportunity, Government should continue efforts to halve project turnaround times and ensure the basin remains an attractive, stable, and competitive place to do energy business. Consenting should be streamlined; queuing should be rationalised and a fiscal and regulatory regime that de-risks investment in the UK driving investment in the offshore energy sector is needed.

Responses to the consultations specific questions are given below.

Do you agree that a class exemption from the requirement to hold a transmission licence should be provided for all high voltage offshore wind array systems that connect to an offshore substation as set out in the draft order?

OEUK is supportive of the Class exemption proposal.

To what extent do you agree with the cost figures used on page 9 which outline the case for exempting high voltage array systems? Please provide any additional data to support your answer.

N/A

Is there any evidence of which we have not accounted for in this consultation, but is material to our considerations?

Government should consider future consumers situated in the offshore domain such as platform electrification, hydrolyser, CCUS that might take part of a total of their power from offshore wind.