CROWN ESTATE

Thank you for your letter of November 28th concerning the capacity of statutory bodies, including The Crown Estate, in relation to engagement with offshore energy developments.

The Crown Estate has invested in building a dedicated team of experienced professionals in the offshore wind and wave and tidal industries. Our UK-wide remit gives us the scale and scope to allocate resources and draw on specialised expertise as and when required. This flexibility also enables us to adapt as the industries develop and to respond to opportunities and challenges as they arise.

In addition, our strategic workstreams and enabling actions are designed to address critical issues and knowledge gaps, thereby reducing the resource demand on developers and statutory agencies and helping prevent development delay.

All Scottish offshore energy projects are run from our Edinburgh office, from where consenting and policy advice is provided. Specialist GIS, commercial and legal support is supplied from our London office.

Below are some examples of the support and capacity provided by The Crown Estate.

- We employ dedicated Development Managers for each Round 3 offshore wind zone. These staff are embedded in the offices of the developers, allowing them to work closely and effectively with development teams throughout the pre-application and pre-consenting stages.
- We fund five Round 3 strategic workstreams. These are designed and guided by The Crown Estate, developers and government, with the aim of accelerating and de-risking development. Further detail can be found at http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/energy/offshore-wind-energy/working-with-us/strategicworkstreams/
- The offshore wind projects with an Agreement for Lease under the Scottish Territorial Waters Round are also managed from Edinburgh by a dedicated Development Manager.
- The Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters (PFOW) wave and tidal programme is managed from Edinburgh, and other wave & tidal leasing and development support activities are managed across both our London and Edinburgh offices.
- For PFOW, The Crown Estate is investing £5.7 million in enabling actions designed to help developers address issues across health and safety, the supply chain, consenting, and stakeholder engagement. More information on this programme of work is at http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/energy/wave-and-tidal/pentland-firth-and-orkneywaters/enabling-actions/
- We announced in January 2013 that we are considering investing up to £20m in total in two wave and / or tidal stream projects. The investment will be in projects involving multiple generation devices arranged in an array. First arrays are important because they are on the critical path to larger schemes. By bringing our capital and expertise to bear, we hope to catalyse investments
by others and to see projects proceed to construction and operation as soon as possible.

- We work with the statutory consultees and Marine Scotland to advise on the likely timing and quantity of consent applications. This assists those agencies to source, plan and allocate the appropriate resource.
- We also allocate resource to a range of initiatives designed to help industry-wide development such as the Offshore Wind Developers Forum, the Offshore Wind Programme Board, the Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables (FLOWW) Group, the Marine programme board and the PFOW Leadership Forum.

Anecdotally, we receive positive feedback from developers on the availability, accessibility and seniority of our team. We are confident that we have the necessary capacity and expertise, based on the current trajectory of deployment in the 2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland. If the progress of the Scottish offshore wind or wave & tidal programmes requires additional staff resource, we will draw on our UK-wide resources to ensure that need is met.