

Eskdalemuir Workshop Note – 6th September 2023

Attendees from the following organisations were represented:

- Scottish Government – onshore energy policy and ECU officials
- Ministry of Defence – Safeguarding team lead
- Morton Fraser Lawyers – Mr. D Milne
- AWE Blacknest – Dr D. Bowers
- Heads of Planning Scotland – Mr R. Duncan
- RenewableUK – Mr A. Davies and Mr R. Thomas
- Onshore Wind SLG representative (also attended on behalf of Scottish Renewables) – Mr M. Trinick KC
- Xi Engineering – Dr M.P. Buckingham
- On behalf of AIFCL – Mr A. Liddell

The purpose of this workshop was to have a without prejudice discussion on matters which require MOD consideration and implications of potential policy approaches being considered as part of the Eskdalemuir Guidance document in development.

Topics covered in the workshop included:

- Scottish Government policy approaches and draft guidance;
- Proposed MOD management approach to SGV and application of SIL;
- Consistency between planning permission and consenting regimes in Scotland and England;
- Current safeguarding tool and potential updates;
- Mitigation solutions – and MOD's view on the inherent qualities of already tested turbine makes and models compared to technical (i.e. engineered) mitigation; and
- Potential legislative/regulatory requirements.

Attendees agreed the following actions would be taken following the workshop:

1. Scottish Government to engage with MOD and UK Government on legislation/regulation
2. Scottish Government, in collaboration with EWG, to develop a process flowchart for onshore wind applications in the consultation zone
3. MOD to continue work on management approach and update EWG on progress
4. MOD to continue work on review of Xi technical analysis and verification of baseline
5. Xi Engineering to engage with MOD on tool requirements