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Mr James Malone
National Grid PLC
National Grid House
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill
Warwick
CV34 6DA

Your reference:
ENQ/2025/00062

(By e-mail only)

02 March 2026

Dear Mr Malone,

Western Link 2 Transmission Reinforcement Subsea High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Cable System – MMO Response to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Request

The MMO refers to the Western Link 2 enquiry, reference ENQ/2025/00062, which was submitted to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on 07 April 2025.

Council Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (“the EIA Directive”) aims to protect the environment and the quality of life by ensuring that projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects by virtue of their nature, size or location are subject to an EIA before permission is granted.

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended) (“the MWRs”) transpose the EIA Directive into UK law for marine licence applications.

The MMO **does not** consider the regulated activity under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009: deposits of cable protection to constitute a ‘Project’ under either Schedule A1 or Schedule A2 of the MWRs. The MMO acknowledges that the Project Categories listed under the Schedules of the MWRs should not be interpreted too restrictively, as to exclude an activity that is not obviously listed under the schedules, however, there must be a clear link between activity and the Project Categories under the schedules. In the case of Western Link 2 the only regulated activity is the deposit of cable protection which is not listed under the Schedules.



Screening by determination under Regulation 7 or 8 of the MWRs is not possible since a 'cable laying' project category is not listed in the Schedules of the MWRs.

The MMO does not agree to screen the regulated activity in by agreement under Regulation 5 of the MWRs. Regulation 5 of the MWRs states both the applicant and the Regulator must agree to screen the project into EIA voluntarily. The MMO is not content to screen-in the project voluntarily.

In conclusion, the MMO refuses to screen the project by determination or voluntarily.

It must be noted however that the works will require a marine licence under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

If you have any queries regarding this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact myself using the details below.

Yours sincerely,



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