



Our reference: C2540

By Email only

25 October 2024

Dea 

Comments in relation to the Combe Martin Licence Application (MLA/2023/00227)

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has received your complaint regarding the marine licence application process for the Combe Martin Licence Application (MLA/2023/00227). This has been passed on to me to respond to in my capacity as Senior Case Manager for this application. I have addressed each of your two separate points below.

1. Public Representation and Consultation Responses

It is standard practice within the Marine Licensing Team to publish public representations and consultation responses once concerns have been addressed and the application moves to the decision recommendation and approval stage. As the MMO is currently reviewing all comments received and further information submitted by the applicant, the responses had not been published at the point that your complaint was made.

In this instance, and in the case of other similar applications, due to the concerns raised, we have now published the representations made and consultation responses received thus far for the application. This was done on 14 October 2024. We will also publish any further representations or responses received once further consultation has taken place as and when any are received.

2. Quality Assurance

Once the application was allocated to the case team, the information was reviewed and it was determined that we would require further information from the applicant in order to proceed. We requested that additional information was provided on the design and infrastructure of the proposed project, the potential impacts it posed to the surrounding environment and that a Navigational Risk Assessment was provided.

In the licensing team, we receive a vast range of different supporting documents, from a range of applicants, to inform a wide array of different marine licence applications. For this reason, these supporting documents differ widely on a case-to-case basis. In this case,



following submission of the application, the case team completed their technical assessments based on the information provided and our consideration of potential impacts the proposed works posed. We also used these assessments to inform who we would need to consult in order to gather sufficient evidence in order to make a decision on the application. Once these technical assessments were complete, the case team were content to proceed to the consultation stage of the determination process.

At the consultation stage, the MMO, with input from our consultees, identified there was a need to update the documents submitted by the applicant, and where further information was required and updated, documents were required in order to proceed with the determination process. These responses were then reviewed, and on occasion sent back to the applicant to request that more detail be added to allow for re-consultation.

The case team are in communication with the applicant regarding the next steps of the process and are working to update our technical assessments with the updated information from the applicant, prior to going back out to re-consultation with both our primary advisors and the public.

The MMO has a quality assurance process in place to ensure that all our determinations are robust and made with the best available evidence. Whilst the quality assurance process has evolved with the MMO's experience of licensing cases, stringent checks of application documents are undertaken. This is via our Gateway Review process. This is a facet of the MMO's Marine Case Management System used by case teams to assess an application. It consists of 'parent and child' style questions designed to interrogate the rigour of an application and assess it against known and established data sources e.g., MAGiC Maps. The information is further tested during the consultation period using advisors with their own specialised expertise.

The determination process is still ongoing for this application due to the numerous complexities and the need for further information and considerations from the applicant. The MMO continues to follow all processes in regard to this marine licence application, and no determination will be made until it the MMO is content that the best available evidence has been supplied in order to make a decision. At this point, the MMO will either grant a licence, grant the licence subject to conditions, or refuse the application. A positive determination will only be granted if we can conclude that the proposed works will not have a significant impact on either the environment, human health, or other legitimate uses of the sea. In order for the MMO to conclude this, it may attach conditions to a licence if we consider it necessary to mitigate any known impacts. Please see our website for further information on our determination process:

[Make a marine licence application - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/make-a-marine-licence-application)

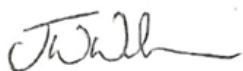
I trust that the above information has addressed your concerns. Should you have any concerns about how your complaint has been handled, you are entitled to Tier 2 complaint review. If you wish to proceed to Tier 2 of the complaints process, you should request this by contacting us at:

Tier 2 complaints
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House



Monarch Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH
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Yours Sincerely,



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