

London, March 18, 2011

Cllr Jeanne Harrison

Dear Cllr Harrison

### **Decommissioning Kentish Flats Wind Farm**

I would like to thank you for attending our Public Information & Consultation Day in Whitstable recently. A lot of people have shown an interest in our plans to extend Kentish Flats and we are now considering all of the comments that we have received ahead of the submission of a formal application for consent for the wind farm extension to the Infrastructure Planning Commission later this year.

In conversation with my colleague Jason Ormiston I understand you enquired about how Vattenfall would go about decommissioning the Kentish Flats Wind Farm, and its extension, when it comes to the end of its useful life. A number of people raised this issue at the Public Information Days and I am pleased to take this opportunity to explain the legal and contractual obligations to decommission our wind farms. We will also be putting a copy of this response on our website to answer the questions that were raised by others.

Vattenfall is required, by virtue of both its consent for the existing Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm and in terms of its arrangements with The Crown Estate to decommission the wind farm at the end of its life. A decommissioning plan is to be prepared and agreed between Vattenfall and The Crown Estate and separately with the Secretary of State. To ensure that there are sufficient funds in place to carry out the decommissioning at the end of the life of the wind farm, a financial guarantee is already in place which covers the cost of the decommissioning.

In terms of the proposed extension to the Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm, again, Vattenfall will be required to decommission the wind farm. As a result of changes in legislation since the existing Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm was developed, the decommissioning programme for the extension will be agreed between the Secretary of State and Vattenfall. Again, a financial guarantee will be in place at the time that construction starts on the wind farm extension sufficient to cover the cost of the decommissioning.

These financial guarantees ensure that in the unlikely event that Vattenfall fails to decommission the wind farm at the end of its life, that there will be sufficient funds available to cover the costs of the decommissioning.

If Vattenfall sells the Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm, and its extension, the obligation to ensure sufficient funds are available for decommissioning passes to the new owners. The existing financial guarantees that are in place will only be released when the new owners provide similar financial guarantees.

I hope that you find this letter useful. You can be confident that Vattenfall takes its obligations to the community and environment very seriously and this includes the safe and environmentally sensitive removal of the wind turbines at Kentish Flats when the wind farm comes to the end of its useful life.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Goran Loman', written in a cursive style.

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