

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for  
Economy and Gaelic  
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit  
airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig  
Kate Forbes MSP  
Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

By email: [netzero.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:netzero.committee@parliament.scot)

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31 July 2025

Dear Convener,

It is not normally the case that Parliament is informed of determinations on offshore windfarm consenting applications. However, given that Parliament is in recess, and that the Berwick Bank offshore windfarm consenting application of significant interest and of strategic importance, I considered it appropriate and helpful to proactively inform Parliament of the decision made in relation to this application.

I can therefore advise that Scottish Ministers have today granted consent to the application for the Berwick Bank Offshore Windfarm, which will be located in the North Sea in the outer Firth of Forth. It will be one of the world's largest windfarms and will have an estimated capacity of 4.1GW. This decision has been taken after careful and lengthy consideration of the project's potential environmental impact and its potential impacts on other users of the sea.

This decision is a major step in Scotland's progress towards achieving net zero and tackling the climate crisis, as well as supporting national energy security and growing our green economy. Increasing renewable energy generation is critical to meeting our climate change targets, with climate change being one of the biggest threats to Scotland's biodiversity and health of its marine ecosystems.

We are requiring that the developer must deliver environmental compensation to address the environmental impacts of this windfarm, alongside measures which will mitigate and minimise impacts to other sea users.

The Scottish Government will also work with SSE Renewables and stakeholders on proposed environmental compensatory measures required to address the impacts of the project.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

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Offshore wind is already one of Scotland's greatest modern success stories, and we now have the opportunity to deliver a potential offshore wind pipeline of over 40GW, putting us at the forefront of offshore wind development globally. This is the right decision for Scotland's interests and will help to deliver significant benefits for our nation.

The determination paperwork can be found here: <https://marine.gov.scot/?q=ml/section-36-consent-berwick-bank-offshore-wind-farm-firth-forth>

Yours sincerely,



**KATE FORBES**

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