



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Department for Business, Energy &
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Our ref: TOB2019/10530

31 May 2019

Dear Mr James,

Thank you for your email of 23 May, to Greg Clark MP, about the Proposed Seismic Survey for Oil and Gas in Cardigan Bay. The Secretary of State is pleased that you have taken the time to write to him and has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Eni UK Ltd submitted applications to the BEIS Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED), requesting a Geological Survey Consent and a European Protected Species Licence to undertake a 3D seismic survey in the St George's Channel area.

The applications were reviewed by OPRED and copied to relevant consultees, including Natural Resource Wales, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Ministry of Defence. Before the applications could be determined OPRED would also have to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment to determine whether there would be a likely significant effect on any protected species or the integrity of any protected sites. To date, the applications have not been determined, and at Eni UK Ltd's request all work on the applications has now been suspended.

I can also assure you that approval would not be granted if it was determined that the proposals were likely to have any significant adverse effects on the local wildlife or the integrity of any Special Areas of Conservation.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

V Jeffrey
BEIS MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT