



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Mrs Nicola Vaughan  
Head of Aviation  
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Francis Street  
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Ref: 20-10

3 August 2010

Dear Nicola,

**Restrictions on RAF Air Traffic Control (ATC) assessments at the pre-application stage for wind farm proposals.**

You will no doubt be aware of the current economic climate in which Government departments, including the Ministry of Defence (MOD), are working within and the challenges faced by many in ensuring sufficient resources are available to carry out extensive workloads. I am writing to inform you that due to temporary staff shortages within Air Command, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) will be making changes to the way in which all wind farm proposals at the pre-application stage are assessed in relation to ATC.

It should be noted that between August and mid November 2010:

- Full ATC assessments on pre-application proposals will cease to take place. However, assessment with generic guidance will be provided during this period.
- All applications at the formal planning stage will continue to be processed.
- All applications of national significance, e.g. Round 3 Offshore will continue to receive full ATC assessment.
- Industry is also reminded to make use of the aviation safeguarding information and data held on the Restats website at <https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/aviation-safeguarding-maps/>.

The MOD is fully aware of the potential impact the above change will have on the Wind Industry which is why we are informing RenewableUK of this change immediately so that this message can be communicated amongst the Wind Industry. It must also be noted that

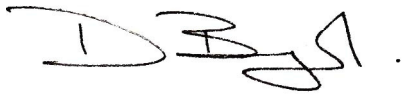
this change is in relation to ATC assessments only – all other wind energy related MOD assessments (e.g. Air Defence, Threat radar, etc.) will continue as normal.

Please be assured that the MOD remains committed to supporting the Government's renewable energy policies and targets of 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020. Every effort will be made to return to the full staffing level as soon as possible to ensure that full ATC assessments will resume on the pre-application stage.

Please bear in mind that the DE Safeguarding Wind Team, who are not ATC subject matter experts, will not be able to provide any further information on this issue and Wind Industry/developers should not contact them directly on this matter. Should you need more detail or require further clarification before going out to the Wind Industry then please do not hesitate to contact me.

I trust this adequately explains the MOD's position. Please be assured that I will keep you fully informed of any developments during this period.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Boyd', followed by a period.

David Boyd  
Principal Safeguarding Officer