

2 August 2023

Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
[beiseip@beis.gov.uk](mailto:beiseip@beis.gov.uk)

Dear Secretary of State,

**Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited (Ferry Road, Hartlepool) Compulsory Purchase Order 2023 (the "Order")**

Avison Young UK is instructed to act on behalf of The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in response to the above Order, following receipt of notices dated 13 July 2023.

The RNLI was established in 1824 and its purpose as a charity is to save lives at sea. Working together with partners and communities it aims to educate, influence, supervise and rescue those at risk from drowning. In the UK and Ireland, the RNLI operates a strategically placed fleet of inshore and all-weather Lifeboats, with a seasonal Lifeguard service in certain locations. It also conducts safety, research and education programmes. RNLI build, operate and maintain Lifeboats and Lifeboat Stations in 238 operational locations around the UK and Ireland, saving 408 lives in 2021.

There has been a lifeboat station in Hartlepool for over 200 years and the RNLI has occupied the Hartlepool lifeboat station since 1994 under a lease from PD Teesport Limited and requires access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Vehicular access from the public highway is across the privately owned port area, primarily via Ferry Road.

From this lifeboat station, it operates a Trent Class All Weather Lifeboat (Trent ALB) from deep water alongside pontoon, and an Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat (Atlantic 85) normally launched from the slipway forming part of the lifeboat station. The Trent ALB covers up to 100 miles offshore and is situated between the flanking All Weather Lifeboat stations at Tynemouth, which is 29 nautical miles to the North, and Whitby which is 29 nautical miles to the South. The Atlantic 85 covers the inshore area around Hartlepool, the Headland and the popular beaches in the area. Hartlepool lifeboat station averages around 60 calls per year (this year to 1<sup>st</sup> August, lifeboats have been launched 29 times). An increasing area of work is people threatening self harm from the quayside, cliffs and bridges within proximity of the lifeboat station.

In the last three years, 47 people have been assisted with three notable incidents of lives saved. The lifesaving work carried out by RNLI is time critical, and any delays in accessing the lifeboat station could have devastating impacts.

The RNLI's primary focus is to ensure operational continuity for the lifeboat station. Having reviewed the documents, on behalf of the RNLI we currently have the following objections to the Order.

1. The RNLI has no certainty that the required 24/7/365 access to the lifeboat station for its crew and maintenance team will be maintained during the construction phase of work.
2. The RNLI has no certainty that the required 24/7/265 access to the lifeboat station for its crew and maintenance team will be maintained following completion of the construction phase of work.
3. The RNLI cannot be certain of the impact of the planned works on the use and operation of its vital work at the existing lifeboat station.
4. The current information within the Order does not appear to indicate that the Order will have any impact on the access for lifeboats to the sea and wider sea area, either during construction works or once they have been completed. RNLI requires certainty that access to the sea and wider sea area will be maintained during construction and following completion of construction.
5. RNLI has not been contacted by the promoter or their agent in advance of the Order notices received, despite best practice guidance in providing information and reassurance to affected parties.

In order to ensure the vital operational and maintenance continuity of the lifeboat station, the RNLI requires reassurance in respect of the above matters. Until that reassurance has been provided, RNLI objects to the confirmation of the Order.

Yours sincerely



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**For and on behalf of Avison Young (UK) Limited**