



Department for
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Our ref: N10#2020/17327

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9 June 2020

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 May, to the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, regarding the effects of COVID-19 on Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon. I am replying as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

Developers of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects benefit from a significant period of development consent, 5 years in this case. We expect developers to have a clear understanding of the requirements of their projects and to be proactive in taking the relevant steps to ensure the consent can be implemented within the timescale specified in the DCO.

There are established routes to extend a DCO; developers are able to submit applications for non-material or material changes to the DCO to the relevant consenting authority for consideration. If a developer identifies a risk that the consent may lapse, they should be in active discussions with the relevant consenting authority to ensure there is enough time for the application to be considered.

In regard to the request to take a standalone bill through Parliament to extend the DCO, the former Secretary of State's statement to Parliament on 25 June 2018 made the Department's position on the project clear. The value for money analysis carried out by the Department determined that neither the proposed Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon project nor the proposed follow on programme of lagoons met the Government's value for money criteria. On that basis this proposal would not represent a justifiable use of parliamentary time.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth