



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Lord Teverson  
House of Lords  
London  
SWA1 0PW

4 November 2024

Dear Lord Teverson,

Thank you for your contribution to the debate during the Committee for the Crown Estate Bill on the 14 October. As I committed to then, I am writing to answer to your questions about government policy on Marine Net Gain (MNG); whether it would apply to and be implemented by The Crown Estate (TCE).

As I set out at Committee, TCE recently published its plans for nature recovery, in which it has committed to increasing biodiversity, as well as protecting and restoring freshwater, marine and coastal systems. TCE will also publish its delivery plan to achieve a measurable increase in biodiversity by 2030, in line with the targets set out in the Environment Act.

The government's policy on MNG is being developed by the Department for Rural Affairs and Agriculture (DEFRA). As part of this work, DEFRA is considering which developments are in scope and will continue to discuss its approach with TCE, as well as a wider group of interested parties.

In the event that a formal MNG policy is adopted, TCE will work with stakeholders and customers to make sure additional obligations are discharged and, of course, TCE will continue to ensure that any and all of their leases are granted subject to discharging any and all statutory obligations.

Through its spatial planning tools and Marine Delivery Routemap, TCE will be supporting wider nature value in a number of ways including, but not limited to, identifying where the best opportunities for delivering positive outcomes

for nature are located, safeguarding important areas to add certainty to delivery, and establishing likely need in association with infrastructure deployment as anticipated in coming decades.

TCE has also supported DEFRA to develop its thinking on MNG through The Offshore Wind Evidence and Change Programme. Through OWEC, TCE funds several research projects on MNG, including a North Sea Net Gain project – an international collaboration to provide further evidence on how biodiversity on the seabed is distributed across the North Sea and around the UK into a central dataset – and The Strategic Net Gain Task and Finish Group aimed to identify a set of strategic targets for the delivery of MNG.

I hope that this letter has answered your questions in respect of the Government's policy and that it has reassured you as to the commitment of TCE to improving the environment of its marine land and increasing marine biodiversity.

This letter has been copied to all those who made contributions at Committee Stage, and a copy has been placed in the library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Livermore', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Lord Livermore**

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY**