

[Decision: Hornsea Two Offshore Wind Farm – Variation 1](#)

In September 2016, the Secretary of State granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Hornsea Project Two offshore wind farm. The pre-application, examination and DCO documents can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website.

The DCO authorises DONG Energy to construct and operate up to 2 offshore generating stations with a maximum capacity of 1800MW. The project is located adjacent to Hornsea Project One offshore wind farm in the North Sea and is located approximately 90km off the East Yorkshire coast. The development could comprise of up to:

- 300 wind turbines
- 2 offshore accommodation platforms
- 6 offshore HVAC collector substations
- 2 offshore HVDC converter substations
- 2 offshore HVAC reactive compensation stations
- subsea inter-array electrical circuits
- subsea cable connections to the shore

On 18 July 2017, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) received a request from DONG Energy to vary the Deemed Marine Licences contained within Schedules 9 and 11 of the Hornsea Two Offshore Wind Farm Order 2016.

The MMOs decision was to vary the DML as detailed in the Notice of Variation, effective from 26 September 2017.

[Press release: CMA launches court action against viagogo](#)

Following an investigation into the secondary ticketing sector, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) began enforcement action against 4 major secondary ticketing websites last November. As a result, 3 of those sites – StubHub, GETMEIN! and Seatwave – offered formal commitments in April to overhaul the way they do business.

However, despite being warned a failure to do likewise would result in court action, viagogo has not offered to make the changes the CMA considers necessary to bring it in line with the law. Legal proceedings have therefore been brought in the High Court.

Andrea Coscelli, CMA Chief Executive Officer, said:

People who buy tickets on websites like viagogo must be given all the information they are entitled to. It's imperative they know key facts, including what seat they will get and whether there is a risk they might not actually get into the event, before parting with their hard-earned money.

This applies to viagogo as much as it does to any other secondary ticketing website. Unfortunately, while other businesses have agreed to overhaul their sites to ensure they respect the law, viagogo has not. We will now be pursuing action through the courts to ensure that they comply with the law.

The CMA is concerned that viagogo is breaking consumer law – with the result that customers are:

- not being told if there is a risk that they will be turned away at the door
- not being informed which seat in the venue they will get
- not being told who is selling the ticket, so that they can benefit from enhanced legal rights when buying from a business
- given misleading information about the availability and popularity of tickets – which has the potential to lead to them being rushed into making a buying decision or making the wrong choice
- experiencing difficulties in getting their money back under viagogo's guarantee when things go wrong
- being offered tickets that a seller does not own and may not be able to supply

The CMA is therefore now seeking a court order to bring these practices to an end, and ensure that viagogo does not repeat historic failures to make its customers aware of the face value of tickets on sale through its site.

Given the importance of ensuring its concerns are addressed promptly, the CMA is also seeking an interim enforcement order from the court that, if successful, will put a stop to some practices in the period up until the full trial.

The CMA continues to work closely with partner agencies and enforcers to drive up standards in the sector.

Notes to editors

1. Further information on the [sector wide investigation](#) conducted by CMA.
2. Further information on the [enforcement action](#) conducted by CMA.
3. On 13 August, Ticketmaster announced that it will be closing its 2 secondary ticket platforms – Seatwave and GetMeIn! – and that from 13 August, no new events will be listed on these platforms. Ticketmaster will still allow tickets to be resold through ticketmaster.co.uk in the future, but it has said that it will only allow those tickets to be sold

at the price originally paid or less. Ticketmaster has formally committed to making sure that this new resale function will comply with the commitments it provided to the CMA in April.

4. The key pieces of consumer protection legislation relevant to the CMA's investigation are the Consumer Rights Act 2015 (CRA), the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013 (CCRs), the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs) and the Electronic Commerce (EC Directive) Regulations 2002 (ECRs).
5. As an enforcer under Part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002, the CMA cannot levy administrative fines but it can enforce the above legislation through the courts, and where appropriate, obtain additional measures to improve consumer choice, drive better compliance with the law, or obtain redress for consumers.
6. Media enquiries to the CMA should be directed to press@cma.gov.uk or 020 3738 6460.

[News story: Over £15 million of funding sourced for small business](#)

- One of the biggest challenges for a growing small business is securing credit.
- Thanks to government scheme over £15 million has been found for businesses who were rejected for finance by their bank.
- The amount of funding secured through the scheme has quadrupled since last year.

Small businesses turned down for loans from the UK's high-street banks have received over £15 million of funding thanks to a government matchmaking scheme.

Over the past 12 months, 670 businesses have raised over £12 million of funding through the Bank Referral Scheme, four times what was raised in the previous year. Since it was introduced in November 2016, more than £15 million has been sourced for businesses across the country.

The Bank Referral Scheme requires Britain's biggest banks to pass on the details of small businesses they have turned down for loans to online credit brokers. The brokers then help those businesses to source funding from alternative, and often smaller, lenders.

John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury said:

From breweries to beauticians, more than 900 British businesses have been matched with the funding they need to grow since we introduced our scheme.

Small businesses are the backbone of Britain, yet many give up on their plans to expand if they can't get a loan from their bank. Now however, thanks to our match-making scheme, they have another shot.

The Scheme was launched in November 2016 in response to evidence which suggested that small and medium-sized businesses simply gave up, rather than seek alternative options, if turned down for a loan by their bank.

Rejected businesses are now automatically offered the opportunity to be referred to three online credit brokers: Alternative Business Funding, Funding Options and Funding Xchange. Each platform provides access to a range of lenders and products, including business loans, revolving credit, asset finance and invoice finance.

Loans resulting from the scheme ranged from £100 to £1.3 million. The average size of a loan secured was £17,285.

Alice Hu-Wagner, Managing Director for Strategy, Economics and Business Development at the British Business Bank said,

One of our key objectives at the British Business Bank is to encourage and enable smaller UK businesses to seek the finance best suited to their needs. Just over half of smaller businesses consider only one provider when they need funding, however, with over a quarter putting their plans on hold or giving up altogether if they aren't offered the full amount they were seeking.

That's why we're pleased to provide ongoing support for the government's Bank Referral Scheme, which is enabling an increasing number of smaller businesses to explore additional options if they are unsuccessful in their original application.

[News story: Royal Albert Hall Council Trustee Appointment](#)

The Rt. Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP has been Member of Parliament for Maldon since 1992. John was educated at Winchester College and University College, London, where he graduated with a degree in economics. Prior to his election, John worked both in Whitehall and the City. Having worked in the Conservative Research Department, he was appointed Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in 1984, serving three successive Secretaries of State until 1987. He then went to work at NM Rothschild Merchant Bank in the City before returning to Government work in 1989 when he was appointed Political Secretary to the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. He continued in that role until Margaret Thatcher left office in 1990 and he was awarded the OBE in her resignation honours list.

In 1992, John was elected Member of Parliament for South Colchester and Maldon and in 1997 was elected to represent the constituency of Maldon and East Chelmsford. In July 2005 John was elected Chairman of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee. In 2006, John was elected as one of three Parliamentary representatives on the Board of the Conservative Party. He was also elected Vice Chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary Party 1922 Committee. John served as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport from May 2015 until 14 July 2016

John is Vice Chairman of the British Group of the Inter Parliamentary Union. He is a full member of the UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. He is also Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Groups for Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Lithuania, Vice Chairman of the APPGs for Hungary and Armenia and Chairman of the All Party Writers Group.

The role is not remunerated. Appointments to the Royal Albert Hall Council are not regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. John declared that he has served as Conservative Member of Parliament for Maldon since 1992.

[Official Statistics: Northern Ireland](#)

Carrier Bag Levy Statistics 2017/18

This is an annual publication which reports on the numbers of bags dispensed in Northern Ireland in the financial year 2017/18. The figures relate to the number of bags dispensed by retailers in Northern Ireland in the year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 as notified to the Department by 30 June 2018.