

From the office of the Chief Executive

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Date: 11/02/2019

Our Ref: NET/E/JP/061

Dear Lisa,

**Request for Extension of Time to Issue a Connection Offer for Connection Application at Gort Energy Storage, NIE Networks reference 18/66804 until 11 July 2019.**

Thank you for your letter dated 22 January 2019 concerning consent from the Authority for NIE Networks to extend the required three month timeline to issue a connection offer to the **Gort Energy Storage Connection Application**.

#### **Request for further connection offer extension**

Within your correspondence you have noted that the application for Gort Energy Storage joined the queue for Gort cluster on 14 November 2018, with the 90 day licence standard due to expire on 12 February 2019.

The LCTA connection node for Gort Energy Storage is Gort Cluster. There is currently some available capacity to offer at Gort Cluster and Gort Energy Storage currently is second in the queue for this capacity, however a substantial amount of this capacity has recently been offered to the 1st applicant in the queue at Gort Cluster which is still within its validity period in terms of; acceptance, Planning Approval Milestone, Security Payment, and therefore the capacity would be deemed as not yet being fully committed.

Following discussions with the applicant, it has been agreed that the best approach for this application is to seek an extension until such time where NIE Networks know the outcome of the other applicants.

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**Applicant Consultation**

The applicant in question has consented to the proposed extension.

**Affected Parties Consultation**

No other affected parties are current after Gort Energy Storage in the cluster capacity.

**The Authority's decision**

This extension would allow the applicant to remain in the connection queue at Gort Cluster where there is an opportunity for network capacity to become available that would facilitate the connection of this proposed project. It would also facilitate a fair and transparent network capacity allocation and queuing process for the capacity available at Gort Cluster while enabling this application to remain in the queue presents a potential benefit by providing a greater opportunity for the remaining capacity at Gort Cluster to be fully committed.

The relevant section of the distribution licence is within Condition 30. This requires a connection offer to be made not later than 3 months unless consent to a longer period has been approved by the Authority.

Given the circumstances of the connection and having considered the request and reviewed the response from the connection applicant, the Authority is able to agree to the extension period requested (i.e. until **11 July 2019**).

Should the clarity regarding the status of capacity at Gort Cluster be realised earlier NIE Networks should progress a connection offer for this application at an earlier date.

Yours sincerely,



**Jenny Pyper**  
Chief Executive