

Mike King IEng. MII RSM MInst. NDT
Friends of the Earth
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: M14/-/2/92

Date: 26 July 2007

Dear Mr King

FAVOURABLE GOVERNMENT VIEW ALLOWING HANSON AGGREGATES MARINE LIMITED TO CONTINUE TO EXTRACT MARINE SAND AND GRAVEL FROM AREA 401/2 (A & B), OFF THE NORFOLK COAST

Thank you for your letter of 12 June 2007 to my colleague Denis Spooner about Area 401/2 (A & B). Responsibility for marine minerals dredging proposals has now transferred from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the administration of these responsibilities has transferred here from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

I note your disappointment but I am afraid that there is nothing that I can add to the contents of the letter dated 11 April 2007 that was issued on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. That letter explains the Secretary of State's reasons for issuing that decision and it would not be appropriate for me to comment further upon it.

I am sure you will have noted that the conditions annexed to the favourable Government View issued on 11 April provide for a full substantive review of the dredging to occur in 2010. At the time of that review, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be able to decide whether or not the dredging operations may continue beyond that date and, if so, under what terms and conditions.

Yours sincerely



NIGEL BAYLISS
MARINE MINERALS CASEWORK ADVISER (Marine Environment Team)