Question 1

1(a). Has this section adequately identified the general key priorities for ORE delivery in Ireland? Are there additional priorities that should be integrated into the holistic, plan-led approach?

The key priorities for ORE delivery in Ireland could be supported by empowering local government and providing the resources to allow them to take proactive action to get their area ready for the infrastructure, supply chains, and skills that will be required by simplifying and ringfencing funding for those requirements, sanctioning extra staff to support the effort, and providing a dedicated central government liaison team to consult with and ensure all efforts countrywide are coherent and coordinated.

1(b). Has each key priority been adequately described and considered all relevant components?

Local group and institutional involvement has not been addressed to its full potential in the plan. Local government and local networks such as the East Coast Offshore Renewable Network will be crucial to economic viability and will help maximise potential benefits and market opportunities.

1(c). How best should the 2GW of non-grid limited offshore wind capacity be procured?

Mandate low carbon emissions as a procurement criterion to minimize supply chain distances and ensure that the generation of renewable energy imposes the least possible burden on Irish energy needs.

1(d). What are your views on the design parameters for the successor scheme to ORESS, what else should/should not be considered?

Fixed wind technology will serve as a pioneering model from which floating wind can draw valuable lessons, as it will have built skills, knowledge, and infrastructure that will be relevant to all future projects. Therefore, it is imperative to establish learning pathways and connections from fixed wind projects to successive floating wind schemes.

1(e). What frameworks and/or supports are required for alternate routes to market such as CPPAs, Power-to-X projects, interconnector-hybrid projects and export projects?

1(f). What additional capacities and responsibilities should be held by industry in the context of the plan-led approach?

1(g). How can Government facilitate a more comprehensive and streamlined engagement process with developers to ensure national ORE targets are delivered?

The government can enhance the engagement process with developers by including them, along with all stakeholders, particularly local participants, in all activities, meetings, and taskforce activity. This will ensure the effective delivery of national targets by recognising that local actors are more likely to have close connections and have their ear to the ground when it comes to any developer activity.

Question 2

2(a). What grid infrastructure should be of particular focus in facilitating the build-out of capacity to support ORE generation targets?

There is a need for direct and continuous funding for ports and harbours operated by local authorities to ensure local infrastructure is capable of supporting offshore projects.

2(b). In relation to National Security/Department of Defence interaction with ORE development, are there any issues you would like to highlight?

Question 4

4(a). What structures, measures, and interventions can the state and state agencies implement to assist in the development of a long-term, sustainable skills and workforce pipeline? Provide any recommendations on what the State can do to promote careers in ORE across a range of educational backgrounds and movement from other relevant sectors.

Streamlined funding channels, administrative backing for local government, encouragement of local collaborations between FET, local government, and local suppliers for skill-building, and dedicated financial support for ORE projects would contribute to establishing a resilient and sustainable long-term skills and workforce pipeline.

4(b). Are you aware of initiatives in other jurisdictions or at a European level that would be relevant to Ireland's ambition of building a sustainable skills and workforce pipeline for offshore wind?

EEEGR -East of England Energy Group; OWGP -Offshore Wind Growth Partnership; WEST - Wind Expert Support Toolkit; ORE Catapult

4(c). To what extent should an emphasis be placed on multipurpose sites for ORE delivery, including the colocation of devices? What Government structures should be developed to encourage and facilitate progress in this aspect?

To encourage multipurpose ORE sites while safeguarding biodiversity and promoting sustainable development, central government should introduce incentive programs that reward offshore wind developers for incorporating biodiversity-friendly practices into their projects and facilitate extensive consultation with local stakeholders, environmental organizations, and scientific experts during the preplanning and planning stages. This inclusive approach can identify potential concerns, incorporate local knowledge, and lead to more holistic solutions that support biodiversity.

4(d). How can Government ensure policy is kept in line with evolving technological innovation and developments in ORE devices? What structures and government procedures should be implemented to future-proof the ORE planning process and account for technological shifts?

Foster close relationships between Central Government, local authorities, training providers, and local industry. Collaborations and partnerships can provide insights into technological trends, challenges, and opportunities, helping policymakers stay informed.

Implement incentive programs, such as research and development grants or tax incentives, to encourage local businesses to invest in training and/or innovative ORE technologies. This can stimulate technological advancements while supporting the industry's growth.

Invest in education and training programs to build a skilled workforce capable of adapting to new technologies. This will ensure that there will be a pool of experts available to support the implementation of cutting-edge ORE advancements as they are needed.