Dear Trevor,

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974

Thank you for your letter dated 10 July 2020 outlining the HSE’s concern on safety performance in the wind energy industry. G+ and its members acknowledge the points made in the letter and are committed to continue our work in health and safety improvements throughout the offshore wind industry.

We would like to thank you for your trust and continued support for the G+ in its leadership role to ensure health and safety remains the industry’s top priority. As per your request the letter has been forwarded to all G+ members.

In response to your letter, we discussed this response with the G+ Board and held an extraordinary meeting with the G+ Focal Group and Associates. We also discussed with other organisations in the offshore wind sector.

As you are aware, the G+ has a comprehensive global work programme that consists of health and safety incident statistics, industry good practice guidelines (GPG), safe by design work programme and learning from incidents. With the programme becoming increasingly data driven, data analysis enables us to validate G+ activities and focus on the correct areas, which should ultimately ensure our technicians and vessel personnel go home safely. Workstreams we would like to highlight as they are directly relevant to the points you raise are listed in Annex A. We are sharing learnings from real life incidents, hazards and safety critical tasks via the Energy Institute’s toolbox and other means to create awareness of incidents, lessons and transparency with the wider offshore wind industry.

We recognise that there is more work to do in reaching out within our own members’ organisations and in the wider supply chain. While the leadership provided by G+ is essential to sustain continued focus on health and safety across the offshore wind industry, delivery of improvements to health and safety performance lies with each individual member. As such, all members have committed to carrying out internal reviews of their own work arrangements considering the points raised in your letter. In addition, all members are committed to continue working with their own supply chain to ensure that they are aware of your concerns and appropriate arrangements are in place to drive improvements in health and safety.

G+ has been collecting data from all its members since 2013, and through analysing and understanding the data, we can review and ensure our work programme is evidence driven. The recently published G+ 2019 data report identifies lifting operations and transit by vessels as key work processes that need improvement (Annex B). In direct response to the high number of CTV incidents we are in communication with the Workboat Association who are taking immediate action in engaging with the G+. We are also working on the development of material handling behavioural safety content to integrate with the Hearts and Minds toolkit, hosted by the Energy Institute (EI).
G+ is committed to fostering collaboration across the wider industry and is a founding member of the wind Industry Collaboration Committee (ICC). Together with SafetyOn, RenewableUK (RUK), the Global Wind Organisation (GWO), the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA), VGB Power Tech and most recently Wind Europe and the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) we continually engage with the industry to establish clear lines of communication and to promote effective and efficient cooperation in relation to health and safety. This is done by ensuring that work is undertaken by the most suitable organisation, under a collaborative framework supporting the established method of work in the wind industry.

We believe that the G+ and UK HSE have worked well, over the past few years, to develop a strong relationship, where we work together to improve health and safety in the offshore wind industry and we look forward to furthering this collaboration in the future as we seek to improve standards.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Griffiths
Vice Chair, G+
Annex A:

In the following we would like to indicate further steps G+ are taking to actively drive health and safety improvements in offshore wind.

- **Implementation of G+ GPGs**
  With the development of GPG and cooperation with the Global Wind Organisation (GWO) to integrate this guidance into their training, we enable arrangements that provide suitable information, instruction, training and supervision to ensure they work safely. G+ facilitates self-assessments for existing and new G+GPGs and supports members to include reference to G+ GPGs within their company contracts. This should lead to even greater awareness amongst contractors.

- **Social distancing measures**
  In response to COVID-19 G+ are sharing all relevant information received on this topic with members and associates and actively encourage to follow available guidance that is relevant to the region of operation (e.g. SafetyOn COVID-19 guidance note for the UK). Regular COVID-19 calls are open to all members, associates and guests to discuss new developments, technologies, issues, etc.

- **Emergency Response arrangements**
  The G+ Integrated Offshore Emergency Response (G+ IOER) document provides global and region-specific information and guidance for emergency response arrangements. Sharing of incidents is facilitated by the Toolbox web app providing incident descriptions and alerts as well as lessons learned for industry.

- **Wellbeing**
  Activities in the areas physical and emotional health and human factors include the development of a harmonised medical and physical capability standard for offshore wind, a workstream on mental health and wellbeing and cooperation with University of Hull and HSL and the link into the Hearts and Minds programme.

- **Learning from incidents**
  The G+ is utilising Toolbox to share learnings from real life incidents, hazards and safety critical tasks with the wider offshore wind industry. Toolbox is a free to use web app which holds incident lessons and safety information. It was developed by the EI through its members, and the G+ is now populating the application with offshore wind learnings. Anyone can access Toolbox and it is aimed at those undertaking the work.

G+ will focus on improving the leadership and visibility of the G+ across the whole supply chain, including contractor and sub-contractor, on a global scale to increase health and safety for industry by harmonisation of standards and good practice. A G+ brochure will be published this year, which will provide a visual summary of what the G+ does and how anyone in industry can be involved. We will continue with the G+ newsletter, which is published bi-annually and contains updates on the G+ work programme and learnings from members, other associations, and the EI. The G+ website has recently been improved and we will continue to ensure it contains all the latest information. We will also regularly use our Twitter and LinkedIn pages to try and reach a wider audience.

We normally regularly attend conferences and events, but this has not been occurring due to COVID-19. The G+ is however participating in events virtually and will look at hosting webinars, which we help will be well received by members and the supply chain.
Annex B (source: G+ 2019 incident data report)

Figure 1: High potential – Top 10 work process breakdown

Lifting operations and working at height are the two main work processes where most high potential incidents occur. Both work processes have seen a decline in comparison with 2018, 2% and 6% respectively. The main areas where these incidents occurred were Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and vessels, mostly crew transfer vessels (CTVs).