# Concerns Mount as UK Port Delays Hamper Renewable Energy Shift



Port leaders in the UK have raised concerns that delays in the approval of harbor orders by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) are hindering the country's shift to renewable energy. Harbour orders are critical for infrastructure developments needed to support offshore wind projects. These delays, attributed to understaffing and an influx of applications before a fee hike in 2022-2023, have left ports waiting years for approvals.

Key figures in the industry, including Miles Carden of Falmouth Harbour, emphasized the potential economic benefits of floating offshore wind in regions like the Celtic Sea but highlighted frustrations over prolonged processes. The British Ports Association (BPA) has also expressed concerns, noting that such delays could jeopardize the ambitious infrastructure upgrade plans necessary to meet the UK’s renewable energy targets.

The Labour party has proposed a £1.8 billion investment in port upgrades to bolster offshore wind initiatives, but experts fear these plans could falter without expedited consent processes. The MMO, facing resource challenges, has stated it is reviewing its resources to address the backlog. As of now, only one of the 28 pending applications pertains to construction work, further complicating efforts to enhance port capabilities for renewable energy projects.