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criteria, including technical competence, health and safety and environmental policies. Once these threshold criteria have been met, applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following

- the quality of geological analysis related to the block being applied for and the identification of prospects (including whether work done was innovative);
- the quality of the work programme submitted for evaluating the full potential of the block;
- the experience or technical databases (e.g., of relevant seismic data) of applicants in each applicant group.

The first two of these criteria will be given predominant weight. Where applicants hold or have held licences, their overall record on exploration and exploitation may also be taken into account, but no preference will be given to such licensees as a result of holding or having held a licence.

- 7. The Secretary of State will be prepared to consider requests from companies that unlicensed blocks in frontier areas of the United Kingdom Continental Shelf not listed in Schedules 2 and 4 should also be advertised for offer. Frontier areas that may be offered include the South West Approaches (Quadrants 72-75), the Malin Basin (Quadrants 124, 125, 134, 135), and other areas West of Scotland (i.e., North of 58 N and West of 5W), Nominations of blocks in such areas should be submitted by 2 October
- 8. Blocks nominated under paragraph 7 above which it is possible to release for licensing will be advertised for offer by Gazette Notice. The terms for such blocks may differ from those advertised in this Notice (see paragraphs 2 and 3 above).
- 9. Following examination of all applications the Secretary of State will select the applicants to whom he is prepared to award licences. If there are two or more applicants for a block who would be equally acceptable to the Secretary of State as licensees for that block he may suggests that the licence should be held jointly by some or all of such applicants.
- 10. The selected applicants will be offered licences on condition that within 14 working days of the date on which the Secretary of State makes the offer of an award:
  - (a) they confirm acceptance of a work programme proposed by the Secretary of State following discussion with the applicants concerned:
  - (b) they remit to the Secretary of State the appropriate payment referred to in paragraph 3(a) above, and
  - (c) they confirm in writing that they accept any special conditions or restrictions of the sort referred to in paragraph 4 above.
- 11. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing.

## Schedule 2

Standard licence terms will apply to all of the blocks listed below. Details of special conditions which may apply to the blocks listed below will be made available by the Department of Trade and Industry as soon as possible.

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25c	
015/02	
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18b	
23d	•
200	Moray Firth
011/24	Wioray I iitii
25b	
012/15	
17	
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21c+	•
22	
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27h/2X	
27b/28	
017/04	
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017/04 05 018/01	
017/04 05	
017/04 05 018/01 02	Central North Sea
017/04 05 018/01	Central North Sea
017/04 05 018/01 02	Central North Sea
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017/04 05 018/01 02 019/03 10 15	Central North Sea
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017/04 05 018/01 02 019/03 10 15 020/01b 06 07b	Central North Sea
017/04 05 018/01 02 019/03 10 15 020/01b 06 07b 08	Central North Sea
017/04 05 018/01 02 019/03 10 15 020/01b 06 07b	Central North Sea