

SOLICITORS

Mark Southgate Director of Major Applications and Plans The Planning Inspectorate Temple Quay House Temple Quay Bristol

Our Ref: DAH.KM.MYN1.1

Your Ref: EN010020

Date: 17 June 2015

PINS RECEIVED

1 8 JUN 2015

Dear Sir

Mynydd Y Gwynt Wind Farm Application Planning Inspectorate Reference - EN010020

Introduction

This matter was accepted for examination on 20th August 2014, with the examination closing on 20th May 2015. This firm has acted for the applicant throughout. We have nothing but praise for the way in which the examination has been handled by the team at PINS; at all stages it has been effective, efficient and courteous. Against this background, we have considered very carefully how we should approach the issue which arises from the facts we set out below. In short, we wish it to be absolutely plain that we are seeking your assistance in resolving this issue, and are expressly not raising any sort of criticism or complaint.

Facts

Your assistance is sought on the question of email submissions which are sent but apparently not received as part of the DCO consenting regime under the 2008 Act. In submitting documents for the examination we are required to send them to PINS's dedicated MYG email address: myg@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk. As PINS has a 12MB size limit on emails, where required we have to submit information over a series of emails. We have successfully accorded with this procedure over the several deadlines of the process.

On 14th May 2015 (Deadline X) we submitted 27 documents on behalf of the Applicant. Given the size of some of the documents and in the light of the above, the documents were sent in a series of 12 emails were from our Keith McKinney to the dedicated PINS' MYG email address. Each e-mail was also copied to David Harries of this firm, and to our client's chief executive, Clive Callister.

Each e-mail was given its own number out of 12, for example: e-mail 1 of 12. This was displayed in both the subject line of the e-mail and in the main body of the e-mail, where it was also highlighted in bold and underlined.

In addition, the body of each e-mail contained a table listing the Deadline X submission documents and highlighting those documents attached to that e-mail. Where the document was so large that it was





required to be split the table would state which part of the document was attached, for example: part 2 of 2.

We attach a screenshot of email 4 of 12 in this sequence illustrating this (Screenshot 1).

The Issue

On 9th June our Keith McKinney was called by PINS' Emré Williams, the Case Manager for this application. In that conversation Mr Williams said that PINS has not received part 1 of both the tracked change and clean versions of the HRASR (version 6) that were submitted at Deadline X, and cannot find any record of the e-mails that included these documents. To be clear, there is no issue that both clean and track change versions of part 2 of the HRASR (version 6) were safely received by PINS. Mr Williams went on to explain that as a result, with the examination timetable having concluded, the Examiner Mr Asquith will not be able to consider version 6 at all when making his recommendation, but will instead consider version 5 of the HRASR that was submitted at Deadline VII, and PINS will refer the Secretary of State to version 6.

In this instance, Part 1 of the track changes version of the HRASR was contained in e-mail 4 of 12, and part 1 of the clean version of the HRASR was contained in e-mail 6 of 12. It is these emails which Mr Williams says PINS did not receive.

These e-mails were sent to the same, correct e-mail address as the other e-mails on the 14th May (to reiterate, myg@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk). We have checked the size of the e-mails to ensure that they were both under the 12MB limit and confirm that both e-mail 4 and e-mail 6 were approximately 5MB each. Clearly, both e-mails were well under the 12MB limit so should not have been rejected by the PINS e-mail inbox because of their size.

Moreover, having submitted the e-mails we did not receive any notification from PINS that the e-mails had not been accepted into the PINS inbox. Normally when an e-mail has not been accepted, an automatic notification is sent to the sender informing him that the e-mail has not been accepted. This did not happen and no such emails were received by us.

We have also asked out internal IT department to check our systems to ensure that the e-mails were delivered and we have been provided with a report that shows that e-mails 4 and 6 were sent from our system.

Further, both Clive Callister and I, being those copied into the emails, received all 12 emails. We attach further screenshots showing this, including details of the time of receipt of each individual email, which one it was in the sequence, and its size (Screenshots 2 and 3). Please note that details of some of the other, unrelated emails in the screenshot have been redacted for confidentiality reasons.

The Way Ahead

Given the above factors, we believe that Mr Asquith should consider the HRASR version 6 that was submitted at Deadline X, as there is nothing to suggest that e-mails 4 and 6 were sent incorrectly, or that the method of submission did not comply with PINS' guidance. If they have not been received by PINS, then we believe the issue to be with PINS given that others successfully received them, including Clive Callister whose email system is, like PINS', entirely independent of ours. In short, the emails should be deemed to have been received and should be deemed to have been received in time. That is what the evidence shows.

In any event, the numbering system that was adopted made it clear that 12 e-mails were sent and what their contents were. It was also obvious from the fact that part 2 of the HRASR version 6 was amongst the documents submitted that part 1 formed part of the submission. If any e-mails in the series were not received by PINS that was apparent.

In summary, the documents were clearly sent correctly and in time. The issue is significant given the particular importance of the HRASR and the significant changes made between versions 5 and 6. The inspector needs to be able to consider this material because it is relevant to issues on which he will have to reach a conclusion both as to the merits of the application overall and also as to his findings on the HRA issues. The Secretary of State will need the ExA's fully considered advice and recommendations.

We wrote in these terms to PINS on 10th June, and for completeness a copy of this letter is attached. Also attached is Mr Williams' email response to this letter, which we have discussed with him but in respect of which he has made it clear he is not in a position to make any change. We have not received anything further at the time of writing.

In these circumstances we bring this issue to your attention and ask for your assistance in resolving this legal issue. Of course, please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours faithfull

David Harries

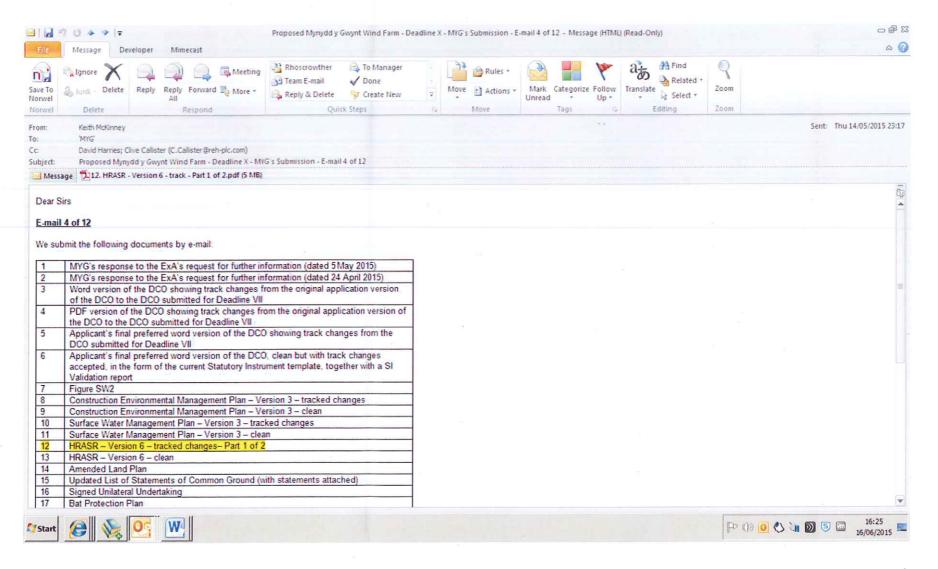
Partner

For Aaron & Partners LLP

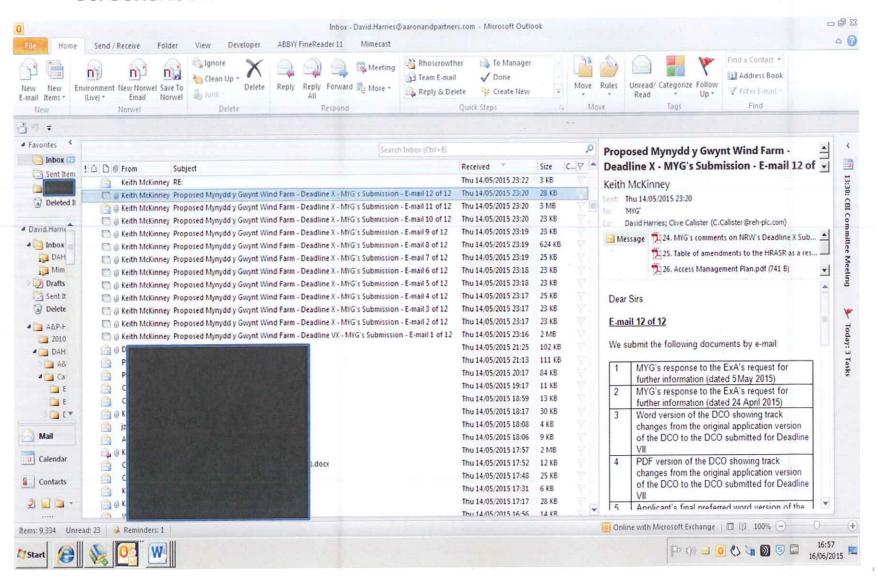
Email: david.harries@aaronandpartners.com

Direct Dial: 01244 405527

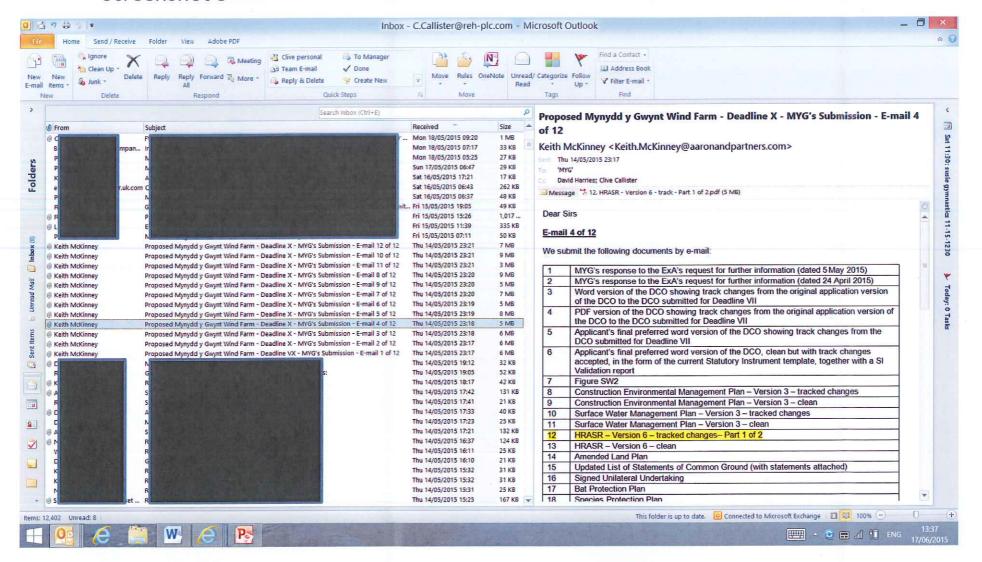
Screenshot 1

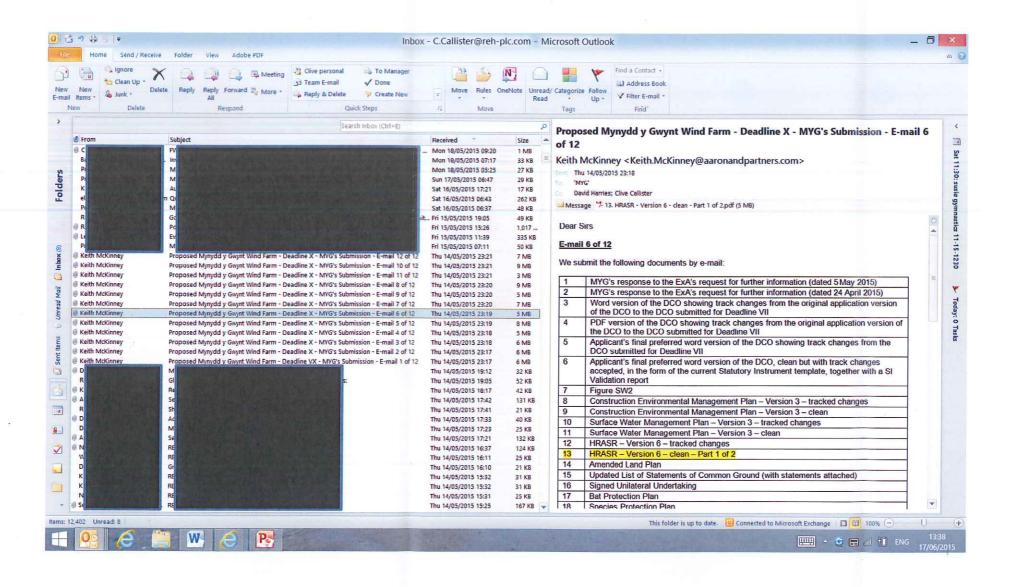


Screenshot 2



Screenshot 3







SOLICITORS

For the attention of Philip Asquith The Planning Inspectorate Temple Quay House Temple Quay Bristol BS1 6PN

Our Ref: DAH.KM.MYN1,1

Your Ref: EN010020

Date: 10 June 2015

BY E-MAIL ONLY: MYG@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sir

Mynydd Y Gwynt Wind Farm Application
Planning Inspectorate Reference - EN010020
Deadline X - HRASR Version 6

We write regarding the above matter and further to a telephone conversation between our Keith McKinney and Emré Williams of the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS") of yesterday.

In that conversation Mr Williams said that PINS has not received part 1 of both the tracked changes and clean versions of the HRASR (version 6) that was submitted at Deadline X, and cannot find any record of the e-mails that included these documents. To be clear, there is no issue that part 2 of the HRASR (version 6) was safely received by PINS. Mr Williams explained that as a result, with the examination timetable having concluded, you will not be able to consider version 6 at all when making your recommendation but will instead consider version 5 of the HRASR that was submitted at Deadline VII and refer the Secretary of State to version 6.

With all respect, we do not believe this to be the correct approach, for the following reasons.

- 1. In submitting documents for the examination we are required to send them to PINS's dedicated MYG email address: myg@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk. As PINS has a 12MB size limit on emails, where required we have to submit information over a series of emails. We have successfully accorded with this procedure over the several deadlines of the process.
- 2. On 14th May 2015 (Deadline X) we submitted 27 documents on behalf of the Applicant. Given the size of some of the documents and in the light of the above, the documents were sent in a series of 12 e-mails were from Keith McKinney to the dedicated PINS' MYG inbox. Each e-mail was also copied to David Harries of this firm.
- 3. Each e-mail was given its own number out of 12, for example: e-mail 1 of 12. This was displayed in both the subject line of the e-mail and in the main body of the e-mail, and highlighted in bold and underlined.
- 4. In addition, the body of each e-mail contained a table which showed which documents were attached to that e-mail. Where the document was so large that it was required to be split the table would state which part of the document was attached, for example: part 2 of 2.

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- 5. In this instance, Part 1 of the track changes version of the HRASR was contained in e-mail 4 of 12, and part 1 of the clean version of the HRASR was contained in e-mail 6 of 12. It is these emails which Mr Williams now says PINS does not have.
- 6. These e-mails were sent to the same, correct e-mail address as the other e-mails on the 14th May (to reiterate, myq@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk). We have checked the size of the e-mails to ensure that they were both under the 12MB limit and we confirm that both e-mail 4 and e-mail 6 were approximately 5MB each. Clearly, both e-mails were well under the 12MB limit so should not have been rejected by the PINS e-mail inbox because of their size.
- 7. Moreover, having submitted the e-mails Mr McKinney did not receive any notification from PINS that the e-mails had not been accepted into the PINS inbox. Normally when an e-mail has not been accepted, an automatic notification is sent to the sender informing him that the e-mail has not been accepted. This did not happen and no such emails were received by us.
- 8. We have also asked out internal IT department to check our systems to ensure that the e-mails were delivered and we have been provided with a report that shows that e-mails 4 and 6 were sent from our system. Furthermore, Mr Harries received all 12 e-mails (including e-mails 4 and 6).

Copies of all of the e-mails that included submission documents for Deadline X have been enclosed with this letter.

Given the above factors we believe that you should consider the HRASR version 6 that was submitted at Deadline X as there is nothing to suggest that e-mails 4 and 6 were sent incorrectly or that the method of submission did not comply with PINS' guidance. The emails should be deemed to have been received because there is clear evidence that they were correctly sent and were received safely by others.

In any event, whilst we do not seek to criticise PINS, the numbering system that was adopted made it clear that 12 e-mails were sent and what their contents were. It was also obvious from the fact that part 2 of the HRASR version 6 was amongst the documents submitted that part 1 formed part of the submission. If any e-mails in the series were not received by PINS it should therefore have been immediately apparent, and PINS should have informed us of the same; thus enabling us to resubmit the documents before the examination closed.

In summary, the documents were clearly sent correctly and in time should be accepted. This is especially so given the particular importance of the HRASR and the significant changes between versions 5 and 6. Our client would be likely to suffer significant prejudice if version 6 is not considered.

We shall be grateful for confirmation that the documents are accepted. Otherwise, and should you have any queries please contact us.

Yours sincerely

Aaron & Partners LLP

Email: david.harries@aaronandpartners.com

Direct Dial: 01244 405527

David Harries

From:

Keith McKinney

Sent:

11 June 2015 11:45

To:

David Harries

Subject:

FW: Proposed Mynydd y Gwynt Wind Farm - EN010020 - Letter to the Examiner

Caption:

Norwel Email

ConvertToPDF:

No

NorwelMail: SaveToNorwel:

No No

David

Please see below.

Keith McKinney

Solicitor

Direct Dial: 01244 405410

From: Emre Williams [mailto:Emre.Williams@pins.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 11 June 2015 11:43

To: Keith McKinney

Subject: RE: Proposed Mynydd y Gwynt Wind Farm - EN010020 - Letter to the Examiner

Morning Keith

Thanks for your letter directed to the ExA, which we can confirm we have received.

As discussed yesterday, all submission received after the close of the examination will not be made available to the ExA to take into consideration during the recommendation period. However we will ensure that a copy of your letter dated 10 June 2015 and version 6 of the HRASR (clean and track versions) is appended to the ExA's recommendation report to the Secretary of State, which he would then take into consideration when making a final decision on the Mynydd y Gwynt application.

I trust your find this satisfactory, however if you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Emré Williams

Case Manager

Major Applications and Plans

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN

Direct Line: 0303 444 5069 Helpline: 0303 444 5000

Email:emre.williams@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Web: www.planningportal.gov.uk/planninginspectorate (Planning Inspectorate casework

and appeals)

Web: www.planningportal.gov.uk/infrastructure (Planning Inspectorate's National

Infrastructure Planning portal)

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From: Keith McKinney [mailto:Keith.McKinney@aaronandpartners.com]

Sent: 10 June 2015 16:57

To: Emre Williams

Subject: FW: Proposed Mynydd y Gwynt Wind Farm - EN010020 - Letter to the Examiner

Dear Emré

I attach, by way of a courtesy, a copy of the letter that we have sent to the Examiner regarding the HRASR that was submitted at Deadline X. Given the differences between version 5 and version 6 of the HRASR and the importance of the document, our client would be likely to suffer significant prejudice if version 6 is not considered by the Examiner when making his recommendation. We hope that this matter can be resolved and that the decision to not consider version 6 will be reversed; if it is not such is its importance that our client will have to consider whether to JR this approach. That is the last thing any of us want to do!

Kind regards

Keith McKinney

Solicitor

Direct Dial: 01244 405410

From: Keith McKinney Sent: 10 June 2015 16:56

To: 'MYG'

Cc: David Harries

Subject: Proposed Mynydd y Gwynt Wind Farm - EN010020 - Letter to the Examiner

Dear Sirs

Please pass the attached letter to Mr Asquith.

Yours faithfully

Keith McKinney

Solicitor

Direct Dial: 01244 405410

Aaron & Partners LLP, Solicitors

Chester office:

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