

The Planning Inspectorate, Mr M Broderick.
FAO Mrs Catherine King,
3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our ref BFC-AFP046

Re: Brechfa Forest Connection EN020016

Dear Mrs King,

We are writing to Mr Broderick as landowner/property owner because we have serious misgivings about the process that is taking place between Western Power Distribution/Freedom Group and us and would like to express these for the Inspector to consider with regards to a fair and equal process to the planning decision.

We wish to make it absolutely clear we have never had any objections to the lines being installed underground but have a continuing and ongoing objection to the line being constructed over ground.

We experience that the interest of us as property/land owner has been very much disregarded and not acknowledged by WPD/Freedom Group. Communication between the parties is not taking place and if there is any, it is vague and lacking details and consequences. We have never been informed about our objections in feedback forms that WPD send out to all land/property owners. In WPD's planning application we were promised that these objections would be send to the Planning Inspectorate

Only on the 13th November 2015 we have received the Head of Terms, after requesting them often also through our land agent. We have now received these head of Terms and we are in the process of organising a meeting between WPD/Freedom, our landagent and ourselves.

The Head of Terms themselves are very vague and are only a summery of the Deed of Grant. There is no mention of injurious affection and despite request of including information about injurious affection in WPD/Freedom have not been forthcoming in including this in the Head of Terms. The Head of Terms do not reflect what we had originally been told. Head of Terms for a contract should also be a negotiation document between the parties involved but when we look at the presented Head of Terms, they are constructed with binding conditions. This is extremely unusual.

There have also been changes to the route alignment and numbers of poles (from 2 to 3) and stays without us being informed about this. The first thing we learned about this was when we were sent the Head of Terms dated 13th November 2015 which included a map showing these changes dated 9th September 2015.

Meetings are at present being organised between WPD/Freedom Groups and land/property owners and the pressure that WPD is putting on land/property owners in signing these Heads of Terms is considerable as they need to have the negotiations organised before the next

Planning Inspectorate Meeting. There is a clause in the Head of Terms that says when we sign this document, we will not be able to voice our objection in the Planning process. Does this sound like blackmail to you? At this stage we are not aware of the full implications of what we are signing.

The process WPD/Freedom Group is following, amounts to unfair pressure as you are still deliberating on the whole process and Heads of Terms should only be presented to land/property owners after you have made a decision. We have not been allowed time to discuss the consequences with our solicitor (as this is only a summary and we need the Deed of Grant). We feel that WPD are steamrolling this process forward without being transparent of all the implications for land/property owners. This is confounded by the fact that, despite numerous requests, WPD/Freedom have failed to discuss the injurious affection within the head of Terms. This lack of transparency makes the process not equal.

We are also grievously concerned at the lack of transparency by WPD/Freedom in failing to undertake any discussion about injurious affection, despite several requests for this to happen. There is still no reply to this whole issue. The wordings in the original document that WPD/Freedom presented to all the land/property owners differs from the wording in the current Heads of Terms with regards to injurious affection and will affect land/property owners in a negative way. Decisions are being taken over our heads and we are expected to comply with this without any objection or knowledge of what is happening.

WPD/Freedom Group is a large organisation with numerous resources to their disposal. Although it might not seem important to them, to land/property owners the framework of how to proceed and the different consequences of this framework need to be explained. WPD/Freedom Groups does not seem to be wanting to exchange communication and tends to brush these subjects under the carpet. As land/property owners we feel very disenfranchised by the whole process and would like to be considered for a site inspection on Tuesday 1st December 2015.

We would like you to take all the above into account and wanted to make you aware that as land/property owners we feel very disenfranchised with the whole process and the way WPD/Freedom is trying to hasten procedures. We would like to ask you to make sure that this process is conducted in a fair and equal manner, as we feel that at present this is not happening.

With regards,

Alan Dufty

Mr G A Dufty

