

22nd November 2015

FAO Katherine King

Ref: BFCAH/108

The Planning Inspectorate
3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Ms King

Brechfa Forest Connection Project.

I feel I must write to you at this late stage to voice my disappointment at the lack of communication that has been received by Freedom and Western Power as regards our "heads of terms" for this development which we have not discussed with WPD. I have spoken to my agent, who has advised me that the objection process has now closed but he has also said that the inspector has been very reasonable and is prepared to receive late representations. Hence my letter to you today.

I would be grateful if the inspector could determine why WPD were not prepared to send the 'HOT's onto us and our agent as individual landowners represented by BJP.

My land agent explained that these were 'apparently' confidential documents which had to be discussed in our presence by Freedom. Such a stance cause our land agent considerable delay in setting up these meetings and he originally asked for a copy of nonspecific 'HOT's which he could discuss with us without the need of Freedom. We understand that WPD promised to do this but then failed to keep to their promise. We have looked at the 'HOT's which we received after the deadline date and cannot see any information which we would consider to be sensitive or which we could not understand or deal with our land agent. He has told me that he has arranged two land owner meetings with WPD last week and that they are very repetitive and when he asked questions about values of our property caused by the effects of the poles on our land, he informed me that they would not engage in negotiations.

When I met the WPD contractor early on in the process, I asked the contractor to move the line close to the hedge as we are a dairy farm and the fields affected are important silage fields so we did not want stays either. The contractor said he would look into this. Whilst we appreciate that the line has moved closer to the hedge we now have large H poles and not the single poles we were promised.

Whilst we appreciate the line has moved and will assist our farming we were not informed we would have large H poles and we believe we have not been kept properly informed by WPD. Our land agent has also told us that the H poles will be more intrusive than single poles and will have a greater effect on the value of our farm being H poles and running through the middle of the farm and visible from our house.

Please understand that we are not NIMBY type people but all we wanted was clear and open correspondence between us and WPD and we feel a little bit let down that the changes were not explained. We have always had a good working relationship with WPD but feel very much let down.

We have also invested in our own wind turbine and wanted to discuss with WPD the impact of the poles on our wind flow and the potential detrimental effect their poles would have on our own wind generation. We wanted to keep to a minimum the detrimental effect the poles would have on the prevailing westerly winds for our own wind turbine. WPD failed to get back to me and we are led to understand that H poles will be far more disruptive to our wind than single poles.

We now have eight poles on my farm (four large double H poles) directly across the passage of the prevailing south westerly winds. We are not happy about this.

Why were the plans showing the modified line not sent to us when the line had been modified? We cannot understand why these revised plans had to be sent out with 'HOT's when in reality they were standalone documents. By delaying us getting these plans have resulted in our family missing the deadline for objections.

My agent has also told us we could not have signed 'HOT's as the information has changed on something he called "Injurious Affectation" I have looked at the original land owners pack highlighted by our agent and the 'HOT's document and there is a marked change. I do not understand the change implications fully - but if it is not important why make the change in the first place and not inform us and our land agent about the changes - we feel this is underhand and not fair and not something we would expect from a large company.

We would be grateful if you could advise us what the changes mean if anything?

Our land agent has also told us not to sign until we and our solicitor have a copy of the Deed we must sign or be forced to sign by WPD.

Being a very keen supporter of the importance of renewable energy having invested in a wind turbine of my own, I accept the significance of this project and I very much want to see this reach fruition, but, the lack of response regarding much of what we have been advised by our land agent in particular the changes to "Injurious Affectation" has left us very disappointed with WPDs behaviour

I trust you will look after our interests. We are not speaking people and will not be speaking at the meeting this week but we are happy to put our faith in our land agent who is working hard to look after us. Our Land Agent tells us that you are looking into everything and that you are up to speed and on the ball.

If you would like to visit our farm and come and speak to us we look forward to meeting you

With our kindest Regards

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Gareth Thomas.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Thomas

pp DJB Thomas & sons.