

James



To The Examining Authority

I am Mr James of Awelfryn. Thank you for letting me speak.

I would like to point out very briefly our concerns about the project.

We have no objection to the scheme and have participated fully in meeting and engaging WPD and Freedom to agree the pole locations at our farm. We accepted the pole location in April 2015 when the maps first came out.

We then met Paul Clough and Matthew Bickford in the beginning of October with our land agent Mr Matthew Lloyd to discuss terms.

When I had listened to Paul Clough's presentation I was asked to sign the document by Mr Clough.

I looked at my land agent who said nothing and he said it was up to me to sign or not. We were in the lounge at the time with my brother and mother and we looked at each other and didn't know what to say.

My realised the plan had been altered during the talk by Mr Clough but he did not mention the changes to the plan and neither did our land agent.

We have never been in this position before and in all honesty did not know how to react as a family.

I spoke in welsh to my brother and told him I was not comfortable signing this agreement as we were not getting any support from our own land agent. He agreed.

We asked Paul about this new H pole which we recognised was an H pole and not a single pole and he basically said that there was

nothing we could do about it and if we did not sign the agreement they would push on with compulsory purchase.

We as a family told our land agent that we were not happy about this major change from a single pole to an H pole and felt pressurised but were not going to sign something which we did not fully understand.

We asked Matthew Lloyd our land agent why the pole had changed and why he had not informed us prior to the meeting and he denied any knowledge of the change - but we do not understand this as he had the document prior to the meeting on the farm and failed to notify us of the changes.

Also we were never given the document prior to the meeting and only saw the document when our land agent gave it to us. As we had never seen the document before and because our land agent would not give us advice and the pole had changed from a single pole to an H pole we as a family took the decision not to sign the agreement.

The meeting then ended.

Since then we have now employed Mr Jones of BJP and he says he is appalled by this behaviour and told us that no one should bounce us into signing anything we don't fully understand especially when the route has been altered with the H pole.

He told us that what he had heard was bad practice by WPD and not in the spirit of the [what he called] protocol set up at the start of the scheme and told us that we should go to the open meeting and make our point to the inspector.

We have also written to you separately sir.

I hope you will take on board everything we have said as we have fully engaged in the process but the process has let us down very badly indeed. *Thank you.*

Mr James of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]