



Begbroke and Yarnton Green Belt Campaign (BYG)

Deadline 2: BYG WRITTEN REPRESENTATION 2

Comments on the Applicant`s Responses to RRs (APP 11.4 pp. 258-260)

In BYG`s RR (0092, p.4, para 2, Funding) we stated that assertions made on behalf of PVDP in their Funding Statement (APP 4.2) raised serious questions regarding the Applicant SolarFive`s funding and delivery capabilities. This WR addresses further comments relating to these matters from the Applicant`s agent, made under Deadline 1 (APP 11.4).

1.Financial Transparency, Ownership and Disclosure

1.1 Yulia Lezhen is described as a *“Cyprus resident and citizen”* (APP 11.4, p.259). In fact, she would be more accurately described as a Russian national with a Cypriot passport. Her Cypriot passport was most likely granted under the “Golden Passport” scheme. This scheme was abandoned by Cyprus in 2020 following infringement procedures being started by the European Commission. Procedures undertaken by the Commission against a similar scheme in Malta resulted in a 29 April 2025 ruling by the European Court of Justice that *“A Member State cannot grant its nationality – and indeed European citizenship – in exchange for predetermined payments or investments, as this essentially amounts to rendering the acquisition of nationality a mere commercial transaction.”*

It must therefore be uncertain whether Ms. Lezhen has, or will retain, Cypriot nationality since under the April 2025 ruling it might be in breach of EU law.

1.2 The following statement is made in respect of Yulia Lezhen`s name (APP 11.4, p.259): *“The spelling of the name follows the transcription from Republic of Cyprus records which are maintained in Greek characters.”* When the Applicant, SolarFive Limited, was set up at Companies House, the records show that Ms. Lezhen used the name Julia Lejeune. This was also the name used when SolarFive Limited made the application to Ofgem for the Electricity Generation Licence. The use of this name was identified by *Private Eye* magazine and described as a “false name” (Issue 1601, 30 June 2023, copy submitted with

BYG`s WR filed at REP1-095). After this, the records at Companies House were amended and the name changed to Yulia Lezhen.

1.3 The statement made by the Applicant in this section in respect of the spelling of the name indicates that there was no precedent or lawful basis for using the Europeanised name `Julia Lejeune` for the purpose of company registration. Our research indicates that the name `Lejeune` has not been used in any other company in Europe by Ms Lezhen; it has always been Yulia Lezhen.

Using a false name at Companies House is a potentially criminal matter.

1.4 References are made to the Funding Statement (APP-022) but no further financial information has been provided. In our RR (RR-0092) we concluded that the Funding Statement was inadequate. The financial information provided is unaudited and out of date. More importantly, no financial information has been provided for the source of funding, the Cypriot-registered Cransseta Investments, owned by Ms. Lezhen.

The Applicant has therefore not provided any further information that proves there are the available funds required. The funding statement remains lacking in any credibility.

2.Developer capability and past performance

2.1 In BYG`s RR-0092 we provided a detailed analysis of the Applicant`s track record and demonstrated that there is no evidence that PVDP has taken any solar project through to construction. The Applicant has not responded to that analysis.

APP 11.4 refers to three projects the Applicant claim demonstrates its track record: Ukijima, Onikobe and Kawasaki, all of which were covered in great detail in our RR.

2.2 No mention is made of Ms Lezhen`s late husband Dmitry Glukov despite the significant evidence provided in our RR (RR-0092) that it was Dmitry Glukov and Peter Gerstmann who worked on the Japanese projects. There is no evidence that Ms Lezhen herself has been involved directly in solar projects, other than possibly providing funding through Cransseta Investments.

2.3 Ukijima is the largest project that PVDP has been involved with. It was not constructed by PVDP and was sold on with significant inherent problems. These were outlined in the Japanese press article we included in our RR. Given the significance this has in respect of PVDP`s credibility it is worth repeating in this submission. There have been major difficulties with the project, which we highlight in the text of the article set out below. As of today, it is still under construction. If this is the best project that PVDP can put forward to make its case, it can reasonably be concluded that PVDP`s track record is wholly inadequate to support their taking responsibility for any significant project, let alone one the size and sensitivity of Botley West.

2.4 Following is an extract from an article on Ukijima Solar Farm that appeared in English in *The Mainichi*, a Japanese national daily newspaper, on 14 May 2023. [<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230511/p2a/00m/0na/012000c>]

`In March 2013, plans were approved to build an approximately 480,000-kilowatt plant with around 1.5 million solar panels on Ukujima island in Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture. Lying at the northernmost point of the Goto Islands, a group of islets off Nagasaki Prefecture in southwest Japan, the roughly 25-square-kilometer island's primary industries are fishing and livestock farming. There were high hopes for the facility, which would be among the country's largest solar plants. The plans were approved the same year the government began offering a fixed price, or feed-in tariff (FIT), contract system to promote renewable energy projects. Yet, 10 years later, the plant remains unused.

Plans for the project were originally led by a German solar power developer (i.e. PVDP) and included Japanese companies such as Kyudenko Corp. based in the city of Fukuoka. However, the German company left the project due to the time needed to secure leases for the large amount of land needed. Thereafter, the project suffered multiple delays.

Plant worker housing was completed at the end of 2022, and panels and other materials are now being delivered to the island. However, the prospects for laying transmission cables between it and mainland Kyushu are uncertain, so core construction work cannot get underway. Without the cables to deliver power, the project is not viable.

According to Nagasaki Prefecture regulations, construction within its harbors requires agreement from fishery cooperatives that have fishing rights in those waters. In May 2020, 10 cooperatives, mainly based in Sasebo, opposed the project claiming it would negatively impact the fishing environment. While Kyudenko has continued intermittent negotiations with the groups, the situation seems to be at an impasse, with the electric utility unable to get their unanimous consent. `
