

From: Oliver Boyd

Address: [REDACTED]

Date: 29/10/25

Reference: EN010147 - Deadline 7 Submission

Subject: Political Risk Warning to Secretary of State Ed Miliband - Unresolved Russian Oligarch Financing Questions

Dear Examining Authority,

This submission addresses the political implications for Secretary of State Ed Miliband of approving Botley West Solar Farm given unresolved questions about Russian oligarch financing. While these matters extend beyond traditional planning considerations, they are essential for the Examining Authority to flag in your recommendation to avoid the Secretary of State walking into a foreseeable political disaster.

I write as the directly affected resident at [REDACTED], Bladon, whose property sits immediately adjacent to the proposed development. My family should not bear the consequences of a project approved despite unresolved Russian financing questions that may later result in project collapse, sanctions complications, or political scandal.

1. THE PARLIAMENTARY RECORD: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

On **27 June 2023**, MP Layla Moran (Oxford West & Abingdon) raised serious concerns in the House of Commons about Botley West's financing. Her statement is now a matter of **official Parliamentary record**:

"It was recently reported in Private Eye that the developers behind Botley West Solar Farm in Oxfordshire are potentially backed by dubious Russian money... The company behind it, Photovolt Development Partners, is registered in Germany but owned by Cyprus company Cranssetta Investments Ltd. The sole shareholder is a Yulia Lezhen.

A New York court case last year revealed that Yulia Lezhen's husband, Dmitry Glukhov, was the primary beneficial owner of a goldfield development company that borrowed \$58 million from Uralsib bank. The litigating company said that there was never any goldfield to be found... It alleged that the company was, in fact, a front to syphon off assets. It further said that it was not the only one, and that there were dozens of such companies, of which Photovolt—about to build to Botley West—was one."

MP Moran asked: *"How can we know that Russian money is not still being greenwashed through our economy here in the UK?"*

These questions remain unanswered 16 months later. No government minister has addressed them. No independent verification has been provided. The corporate structure remains exactly as described: PVDP (Germany) → Cranssetta Investments (Cyprus) → sole shareholder Yulia Lezhen.

2. THE POLITICAL CONTEXT: ED MILIBAND'S SANCTIONS LEADERSHIP

Ed Miliband is not merely deciding a planning application. He is the **Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero** who has personally led the UK's sanctions regime against Russian oligarchs and their assets.

May 2025: Ed Miliband signed the UK's **largest ever sanctions package** against Russia's shadow fleet, working directly with the Prime Minister to protect UK critical infrastructure from Russian financial penetration.

Current status: The UK has sanctioned more shadow fleet vessels than any other country and frozen **£37 billion** in Russian assets.

The political environment is clear: Labour must demonstrate it is "tough" on Russian money and national security. This is non-negotiable for the government's credibility.

3. THE POLITICAL RISK: AN INDEFENSIBLE CONTRADICTION

The political arithmetic is simple:

If Ed Miliband approves Botley West in May 2026, the inevitable headlines will be:

"LABOUR ENERGY SECRETARY APPROVED £800M RUSSIAN OLIGARCH-LINKED SOLAR FARM WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY LEADING UK SANCTIONS AGAINST PUTIN'S CRONIES"

"ED MILIBAND IGNORED MP'S WARNINGS ABOUT RUSSIAN MONEY BEHIND EUROPE'S LARGEST SOLAR FARM"

"GOVERNMENT SANCTIONS RUSSIAN ASSETS WITH ONE HAND, APPROVES RUSSIAN-LINKED INFRASTRUCTURE WITH THE OTHER"

These headlines are **inevitable** if the unresolved questions later prove substantiated. They are **career-ending** for a minister who has built his credibility on green energy and national security.

4. THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE ASKED

When this becomes a political issue—not if, but when—Ed Miliband will face these questions in Parliament:

1. **"Were you aware of MP Layla Moran's June 2023 concerns about Russian oligarch connections?"**
Answer: Yes. They are Parliamentary record.
2. **"Were you aware of the Cyprus shell company structure and the New York court allegations?"**
Answer: Yes. Residents and MPs raised them repeatedly.
3. **"Did you seek independent verification of ultimate beneficial ownership?"**
Answer: [Unknown - but this letter creates a record that he was explicitly warned to do so]
4. **"Why did you approve an £800M project with unresolved Russian financing questions while leading sanctions against Russian oligarchs?"**
Answer: [There is no good answer to this question]

"I followed the planning process" will not be an adequate defense. The contradiction is too glaring. The optics are politically fatal.

5. THE INSPECTORATE'S DUTY: FLAG THE RISK

I am not asking the Examining Authority to determine whether Russian oligarch connections exist. That is beyond your remit and my evidence.

I am asking you to explicitly state in your recommendation to the Secretary of State:

"The Secretary of State should note that concerns about the corporate structure and ultimate beneficial ownership of the applicant have been raised in Parliament (27 June 2023, Layla Moran MP) and remain unresolved. While these matters fall outside the scope of this planning examination, the Secretary of State may wish to obtain independent verification through appropriate government channels—including consultation with OFSI (Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation), NCA (National Crime Agency), or Treasury—to satisfy himself that there are no sanctions implications, national security concerns, or reputational risks before making his decision."

This paragraph gives Ed Miliband:

- **Political cover** to pause and investigate
- **Clear warning** of the risk
- **Documented evidence** he was advised to seek verification
- **Defensible grounds** to refuse if doubts remain

Without this explicit flag in your recommendation, the Secretary of State may proceed unaware of the political minefield he is entering.

6. THE DEVELOPER'S TRACK RECORD: A PATTERN OF CONCERN

The financial opacity is not merely theoretical. PVDP's funding statements provide no verifiable evidence of £820 million availability—only vague assertions about "ability to procure." Submitted accounts have all numbers redacted with disclaimers about "unverified plausibility."

Their claimed track record is misleading. Projects are "delivered ready to build" and then sold—they have never actually built and operated a solar farm. Their flagship Japanese project took 6 years longer than planned and required transfer to entirely different entities (Kyudenko Corporation) to complete.

When combined with the unresolved Russian financing questions, this creates a genuine risk: **What happens to residents of Bladon if this project is approved, partially constructed, then collapses due to sanctions complications or financial failure?**

My family at [REDACTED] will live adjacent to abandoned industrial infrastructure, with our property value destroyed and our heritage setting permanently blighted. The developer will be long gone.

7. THE BROADER INTEGRITY QUESTION

This examination has revealed systematic failures in PVDP's approach:

- **Financial transparency:** None provided despite repeated requests
- **Heritage concerns:** Historic England's serious objections minimally addressed
- **Residential impact:** No proper RVAA conducted for properties like mine
- **Local democracy:** 180-page Local Impact Report finding NO positive impacts ignored
- **Parliamentary questions:** Unanswered for 16 months

A developer with legitimate financing, genuine track record, and transparent ownership would not operate this way.

8. MY REQUEST TO THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY

Please ensure your recommendation to the Secretary of State:

1. **Explicitly flags** the unresolved Parliamentary questions about Russian oligarch connections

2. **States clearly** that independent verification of beneficial ownership has not been obtained
3. **Recommends** the Secretary of State seek verification from OFSI, NCA, or Treasury before deciding
4. **Acknowledges** the political risk created by approving a project with these unresolved questions while the government leads sanctions against Russian oligarchs
5. **Notes** that approval without resolution creates reputational risk for UK government and potential future complications if concerns prove substantiated

9. FORMAL NOTICE TO SECRETARY OF STATE

This letter creates a **formal record**:

Secretary of State Ed Miliband is explicitly warned that approving Botley West Solar Farm without resolving the Russian oligarch financing questions raised in Parliament poses an unacceptable political risk.

If these concerns later prove substantiated—through further media investigation, Parliamentary inquiry, or enforcement action—the Secretary of State cannot claim ignorance. He will be asked why he proceeded despite explicit warnings from MPs, residents, and Parliamentary record.

The political damage will be severe. The approval will be indefensible. The contradiction between leading Russian sanctions while approving Russian-linked infrastructure will dominate media coverage.

10. CONCLUSION: POLITICAL REALITY OVER PLANNING PROCESS

I understand planning examinations focus on technical compliance with National Policy Statements. But this examination is occurring in a political vacuum if it ignores the real-world implications for the decision-maker.

Ed Miliband faces a binary choice:

OPTION A - APPROVE despite unresolved questions:

- Risk: Career-ending scandal if connections later proven
- Benefit: 1.87% of government's solar target (easily replaced elsewhere)
- Defense: None—the contradiction is indefensible

OPTION B - REFUSE citing unresolved questions:

- Risk: Developer anger (but they're not voters)

- Benefit: Zero political risk, defensible on multiple grounds (heritage, residential impact, local authority objections, financial opacity)
- Defense: Strong—"I sought additional verification and concerns could not be resolved"

The political calculus is obvious. Any competent political advisor will tell Ed Miliband to refuse this project rather than risk his career on it.

Your recommendation should give him the tools to make that decision while maintaining the integrity of the planning process.

PERSONAL IMPACT

I am not a professional campaigner or political activist. I am a father of two young children who bought a home in a beautiful World Heritage Site village.

My family should not become collateral damage in a project approved despite:

- Unresolved Russian oligarch questions
- No proper assessment of residential visual amenity impact
- Historic England's heritage concerns
- Complete local authority opposition
- Demonstrated financial opacity

If this project collapses post-approval due to sanctions complications or financial failure—as PVDP's pattern suggests is possible—my property will be permanently blighted, and my children's childhood environment destroyed.

The Secretary of State has been warned. The Examining Authority has the duty to flag these concerns in your recommendation. The political consequences of ignoring them are foreseeable and severe.

I formally request this letter be specifically referenced in the Examining Authority's recommendation to the Secretary of State, and that the unresolved Russian financing questions be explicitly highlighted as matters requiring his personal attention before decision.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Boyd

From: Oliver Boyd [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 October 2025 09:40
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.uk; [REDACTED]@parliament.uk
Subject: Botley West Resident's Final Response - Unresolved Russian Oligarch Financing Questions
Attachments: Botley West Solar Farm Resident's Final Response - EN010147 Deadline 7 Submission.pdf

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Dear Planning Inspectorate,

Please find attached my Deadline 7 submission regarding EN010147 - Botley West Solar Farm.

Calum Miller MP & Layla Moran MP - Why This Matters to You:

I am writing as the directly affected resident at [REDACTED], Bladon, whose property sits adjacent to the proposed solar farm.

My attached letter addresses the **political risk to Energy Secretary Ed Miliband** of approving an £800M project with unresolved Russian oligarch financing questions while simultaneously leading the UK's sanctions regime.

Key points for Parliamentary attention:

1. **Layla's June 2023 questions remain unanswered** - 16 months later, no minister has addressed your concerns about Yulia Lezhen, Dmitry Glukhov, Cyprus shell companies, or the New York court allegations.
2. **The contradiction is indefensible** - Ed Miliband cannot approve Russian-linked infrastructure in May 2026 after signing the UK's largest ever sanctions package against Russian oligarchs in May 2025.
3. **Parliamentary questions will be asked** - When this becomes a scandal, the government will be asked why they ignored your warnings. This letter provides everything needed for written questions, debates, or media statements holding the government to account.
4. **Decision deadline: May 2026** - You have 6 months to force resolution before Miliband makes his decision.

What you can do:

- **Calum:** Hold Labour government to account on the contradiction between sanctions leadership and approving Russian-linked projects in your constituency.
- **Layla:** Follow up your June 2023 questions with written questions to Ed Miliband specifically: "Will the Secretary of State seek independent verification from OFSI/NCA of Botley West's ultimate beneficial ownership before deciding the application?"

The attached letter explicitly flags these concerns for the Examining Authority's recommendation to the Secretary of State. It creates a formal record that he was warned.

My family should not bear the consequences of a project approved despite unresolved financing questions that may result in scandal, sanctions complications, or project collapse.

Please consider raising this matter urgently in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Boyd

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Oliver Boyd.