

Re:- Botley West Power Station.

16th of July, 2026

Dear Inspectors,

I was looking at a Community Consultation leaflet received from the developers dated November 2022. This stated that construction would start in the Summer of 2025.

The reason for their lack of progress seems to be that they have been unable to produce the required documents of the required standard and quality in the required time. Certainly from my point of view their 'Community Consultation' did not properly consult the Community. Hence the plethora of '*Do it again*' signs all over the area - a demonstration of the very strong community feelings. Their RVAA report was abysmal, as was their glint and glare study. No one had bothered to visit the properties affected, despite having been invited to do so.

It seems that, after having been allowed a previous extension and being refused an extension on the extension, PVDP are openly saying that, regardless, they are going to submit revised documents today.

I am sure that you would agree that to accept such documents now would be outrageously unjust, especially in context of the Secretary of States comments:-

“The Secretary of State considers that maintaining discipline within the statutory framework established by the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”) is of fundamental importance to the efficient and fair operation of the development consent regimes.”
“Agreeing to an extension of the duration sought, and at a late stage within the RFI response period, could create an undesirable precedent and risk undermining confidence in, and the integrity of, the planning process. It may also give rise to concerns of fairness, as other respondents are working to the existing timetable and would not have benefited from an equivalent extension.”

I am sure that given the force of his argument, and the clear demands of natural justice, yourselves or the Secretary of State would never allow any documents submitted by them, after the mandated deadline of the 9th of June, to be taken into account in the ongoing process.

Despite their inability to deliver a credible RVAA, I understand that SolarFive/ PVDP also want to be imbued with the powers of a planner or an Inspector. They want to be allowed the right to determine for themselves such fundamental things as the minimum acceptable distances of separation between habitations and the project. Having seen their attempts at producing an RVAA. I would plead with you not to allow this under any circumstances.

It seems to me that they are incapable of producing what is required on time. The reason for this, I would argue is that they are just too small in terms of manpower and capital to carry out such a Consultation and to provide the necessary planning evidence in time.

As you can see from the accounts, both Photovolt Development Partners GmbH and SolarFive Ltd are officially listed as 'small companies'. They each have the same two directors, Mr Peter Gerstmann and Mrs Yulia Lezhen (aka Mrs Julia Lejeune).

I have attached the latest, (unaudited) and limited, small company accounts for 2024 and for previous years. Due to privacy laws, the German accounts are more limited in the later years unless one registers as person of interest. In 2024, apart from directors, PVDP had three employees, SolarFive - none. Three employees between the two Companies, and they are asking to be allowed to build the biggest solar power station in Europe.

For information, in UK, a company qualifies as small and is allowed to file 'small company accounts' if it meets at least two of the following three conditions: an annual turnover of £15 million or less, a balance sheet total of £7.5 million or less, and 50 employees or fewer. These thresholds are set by the Companies Act 2006.

Within the category of 'small companies' some are regarded as Micro-entities. These are very small companies. A company will be a micro-entity if it has any 2 of the following: a turnover of £1 million or less; £500,000 or less on its balance sheet; 10 employees or less.

I have attached the (unaudited) limited small company accounts of both companies. In order to avoid confusion, it is pointed out, in the notes, that the large figures shown in the balance sheets, are transactions between '*associated companies with common directors.*' You can see the very small amount of actual equity that the two companies have at their disposal, and have had in years previous to these latest filed accounts. Certainly nowhere near what would be expected for such an undertaking.

The object of Photovolt in its official filing with the 'Charlottenburg District Court' in Berlin is :- 'The provision of consulting services in connection with the acquisition, development, holding, management and sale of solar power plants or of asset and company participations in this area'. They are not builders of solar power stations.

As reported in the Oxford Mail article of the 7th of August 2023, the Rt. Hon. Layla Moran MP, our most highly esteemed local member of parliament, had stated the following in the House of Parliament. :-

"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 Investment. 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 looked for infrastructure, but did not find it. 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 Botley West - was one."

Ms Moran told the Oxford Mail: "The war on Ukraine is not over as Putin and his cronies continue to wage devastation.

"The best way to act is through sanctioning wealth and assets, as money is being funneled through hidden assets. "

"I was extremely proud of the cross-party work I took part in, on the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022 but it is not enough to just seize Russian assets."

(On 19th April 2021 Cransetta Investments Ltd was withdrawn as a 'Person with significant control' - of SolarFive Ltd.)

It would seem, according to the latest news, that a new court case is now in progress, only this time in Mrs Lezhen's homeland of Russia. It was brought about by defrauded creditors against the Uralsib bank *'which did not oversee the lending properly'* and in particular *'in the withdrawal of funds to offshore companies'* . Perhaps this ongoing case might have diverted Mrs Lezhen's attention from her work, currently in hand, here.

I am sure that the Secretary of State is not aware of the statement by the Rt. Hon. Layla Moran MP above. I would be most grateful if you could please bring it to his attention by giving him a copy of this submission as requested.

He is being asked to give the very considerable powers inherent in a DCO to two foreign-owned companies. It is imperative, before doing so, that he know everything about these companies and their directors. Before giving these powers to the Companies, he must be completely satisfied that these powers will not be misused or abused in any way.

We, the public, clearly have the right to expect that the companies being given these vast powers over us, and their directors, will have been properly investigated and have been proven to be fit, suitable persons, to have the capacity to carry out the work, and to be above suspicion of any wrongdoing.

If that is not the case then the DCO must not be given.

Yours faithfully,

William McGill

Registration number [REDACTED]