
Name _____

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The Rt Hon [REDACTED]

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

1 Victoria Street London SW1H 0ET

Re: Botley West Solar Farm – Developer Non-Compliance and Attempt to Submit Late Evidence

This behaviour is not an isolated incident. Community groups such as Stop Botley West have been monitoring the process closely and have documented a pattern of missed deadlines, incomplete submissions, and requests for extensions that far exceed what is reasonable within the NSIP framework.

Stop Botley West and other local bodies have highlighted several critical concerns:

- **Failure to provide required information on time**, despite clear and repeated requests from the Planning Inspectorate.
- **Attempts to introduce major new evidence after deadlines**, which would normally be inadmissible under the structured NSIP timetable.
- **A growing volume of late material**, making it increasingly difficult for residents, parish councils, and statutory consultees to review and respond meaningfully.
- **Concerns that the developer is using delay tactics**, creating an uneven process in which they benefit from additional time while the public is constrained by fixed deadlines.

- **The scale of the new information requested**, which suggests that earlier submissions were incomplete or inadequate.

These issues collectively undermine confidence in the fairness and transparency of the NSIP process.

Why This Must Be Addressed

The NSIP system is designed to ensure that all parties — including local communities — can participate on equal terms. When a developer repeatedly fails to meet deadlines and then seeks to submit large volumes of new evidence, it:

- **Compromises the integrity of the examination process**
- **Disadvantages the public**, who must continually adjust to shifting timelines
- **Creates procedural imbalance**, effectively granting the developer more flexibility than other participants
- **Risks setting a precedent** that developers may ignore statutory requirements without consequence

Given the exceptional size of the Botley West proposal — one of the largest solar developments ever proposed in the UK — strict adherence to process is essential.

Request for Intervention

I respectfully ask that your department:

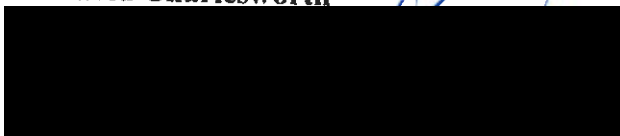
1. **Review the developer's non-compliance with the Inspectorate's requests and deadlines,**
2. **Confirm whether the late submission of new evidence is admissible under NSIP rules,**
3. **Ensure that any late evidence is either rejected or accompanied by a formal extension of time for public review,**
4. **Provide assurance that developers cannot repeatedly disregard statutory deadlines without consequence.**

Local communities deserve a process that is transparent, fair, and conducted within the rules. The current situation risks undermining public trust in the NSIP system and in the governance of major renewable infrastructure projects.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

David Charlesworth





Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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David Charlesworth



Our ref: TOB2026/09913
Your ref:

July 2026

Dear David Charlesworth,

Thank you for your letter of 17 July, regarding the Botley West Solar Farm. Your correspondence has been passed to me for response.

As I hope you will appreciate, the Secretary of State receives significant volumes of correspondence on a daily basis, and, regrettably, is unable to respond to each one personally. Therefore, I have been asked to respond.

I can confirm that your email will be treated as a representation and will be carefully considered alongside all matters that are relevant to the decision-making on the application for development consent in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.

Given the Secretary of State's quasi-judicial role in taking decisions on applications for development consent for energy infrastructure proposals, it would not be appropriate to comment on specific matters related to the proposals, as this could be seen as prejudicing the decision-making process.

Yours sincerely,

Reshma Croll
DESNZ CORRESPONDENCE UNIT