

From: Cllr Andrew Wood cllrandrewwood@gmail.com
Subject: FOI request Westferry Printworks planning application APP/E5900/W/19/3225474
Date: 27 May 2020 at 10:11
To: mhclgcorrespondence@communities.gov.uk



Dear MHCLG FOI,

I wish to submit an FOI into the decision by the Secretary of State to approve the Westferry Printworks planning application.

This was against his own inspectors advice and the timing of the decision was suspicious given that the following day London Borough of Tower Hamlets voted to increase Community Infrastructure Levy rates from the £0 to £280 per square meter resulting in a potential CIL contribution of £40 million being lost.

Your details are here APP/E5900/W/19/3225474:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-at-former-westferry-printworks-site-235-westferry-road-london-ref-3225474-14-january-2020>

This follows The Times leading article today which also calls for scrutiny of this decision, clearly this is in the public interest:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/the-times-view-on-robert-jenricks-decision-on-a-controversial-planning-application-dissent-in-docklands-t582v2rht>

My FOI is as follows:

1. Can you please disclose all correspondence (whether by letter or by email) between MHCLG as well as Robert Jenrick MP, or any current or former MHCLG Minister and the developer of this site (Northern & Shell, Richard Desmond, Mace or any related party) from 1st January 2018 to todays date about this site and any related planning application. In part this is to find out whether there had been any discussions before the revised planning application was submitted in July 2018.

Happy to exclude administrative emails related to the setting up of and timing of the public enquiry itself by the Planning Inspectorate.

2. Where there any meetings (on any subject) between MHCLG as well as Robert Jenrick MP or any other MHCLG Minister (current or former) or civil servant and the developer of this site (Northern & Shell, Richard Desmond & Mace) from 1st January 2018 to todays date? not including the inspectors public planning enquiry? I include Mace as they are developing the site for Northern & Shell and most correspondence with the developer includes people from both companies.

3. LB Tower Hamlets as part of the judicial review application made a request for disclosure of information, I wish to make the same request as an FOI if not already covered by questions 1 & 2.

4. Did MHCLG undertake its own viability analysis of this site at any point or consider doing so (or commission somebody to do so)? something Sir Ed Lister then Deputy Mayor for London did in 2016 when considering an earlier application.

5. Was MHCLG aware of the vote on the 15th January 2020 by LBTH to approve the increase in CIL rates? when were you aware of the timing of the decision or when did you expect it given that the MInisters decision was issued on the 14th Jan and the deadline for a decision was the 28th February (if my memory is correct)?

My name is

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But all communication can be sent to my email

cllrandrewwood@gmail.com

I am the elected Councillor for Canary Wharf ward in LBTH.

Andrew Wood

Councillor for Canary Wharf Ward

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

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