



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Department of Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

14th June 2016

Dear Secretary of State,

You will no doubt be aware of the Heckington Fen Wind Farm S36 Variation Application, which has caused a great deal of concern within the affected local communities in our constituencies. A grouping of local affected Parish Councils and residents has commissioned Dr John Yelland, a highly qualified and respected acoustician, to investigate the Noise Impact Assessment, submitted as an integral part of the original planning application and his report has now been submitted to your department.

Dr Yelland's report makes for concerning reading. He finds that, amongst other defects, the background noise surveys that were carried out were deeply flawed. These are the background noise measurements made at a number of homes close to any proposed wind farm, typically over a period of four weeks, and are fundamental to the creation of any valid noise impact assessment report.

The original consent was nevertheless granted, in spite of the applicant's use of defective and non-compliant noise data. Dr Yelland concludes that the project in its original form would already have significantly exceeded the Government's permitted noise limits. If the variation application were granted relying on the original noise impact assessment the project would exceed those limits by an even greater margin.

In the light of Dr Yelland's report the District Council, (North Kesteven District Council) are investigating the implications arising from this and would therefore benefit from the call for compliant background noise surveys to be carried out jointly by the developer's chosen independent noise consultant and Dr Yelland. The six Parish Councils and community resident's action group would also support this course of action.



The data produced from this survey would be analysed and reported jointly if both these parties are in agreement or separately if they are not. By independent we mean acousticians who are not predominantly employed by or contracted to the wind energy industry. This would allow for your officials to have full knowledge of the facts before coming to a decision.

We write to make you aware of our concern as Members representing the affected communities, and we would be grateful for your assurance that the report, and our requests for further background noise surveys and noise impact assessment(s), will be fully taken into account before any decision is considered or made.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns, and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

—
Matt Warman MP
Boston and Skegness

Stephen Phillips QC MP
Sleaford and North Hykeham