

Welsh Affairs Committee

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Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

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Mark Shorrock
Chief Executive
Tidal Lagoon Power

24 May 2018

Dear Mark

We refer to your letter of 21 May responding to our questions relating to the evidence you gave to our Committees on 9 May.

Thank you for providing the additional information regarding your meetings with Wales Office ministers.

In relation to our second question, regarding financial inducements, we are not convinced by your response. Your apology relates to scope for misinterpretation of our questions rather than the inaccuracy of your own answers.

You agree that Shire Oak Quarries Ltd (SOQ) offered in a draft agreement with St Keverne Parish Council the establishment of a community fund and that the Council would provide “reasonable support” to any future planning by your company pertaining to Dean Quarry. It is difficult to regard this as anything other than a financial inducement.

You say that the questions twice implied wrongdoing and an improper payment by yourself or SOQ. Yet the questions related to financial inducements; there was no mention of wrongdoing nor improper payments. That was your own misinterpretation of the questions put to you, not the misinterpretation of others, as you suggest. Given that you found “no ambiguity” in the questions put to you, it is unfortunate that, instead of taking the opportunity to put the record straight in relation to the accusations, of which you were clearly aware, you chose to twice deny that there was any financial inducement offered. If, as you maintain, the creation of community benefit packages is best practice in applications of this nature, there was no need for you to attempt to cover up the offer made.

We deeply regret that you failed to provide accurate information to our Committees during the evidence session and trust that in future you will provide transparent and accurate responses to legitimate questions in order to facilitate a decision on the project, which we hope will be made shortly.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of David T.C. Davies in black ink.

David T.C. Davies MP
Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee

Handwritten signature of Rachel Reeves in black ink.

Rachel Reeves MP
Chair of the Business, Energy and
Industrial Strategy Committee