

**Mr M Post**

**Sent via e-mail**

request-160300-e2d3a248@whatdotheyknow.com

**Our Ref: WT 10525**

**Date: 12 JULY 2013**

Dear Mr Post

**Review of request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000/ Environmental Information Regulations 2004, of our apparent failure to respond to your request for details of the process to appoint SEPEL to develop hydropower at Romney Weir following the withdrawal of npower.**

Thank you for your e-mail dated 3 July, addressed to our enquiries unit, requesting an internal review of why we have not responded to the questions submitted in your e-mail dated 5 May.

Having fully investigated our handling of your enquiry I have discovered that your initial e-mail dated 5 May 2013 10:12 was forwarded to the West Thames Area Office on 7 May.

The officer at West Thames who dealt with your e-mail linked it to a previous request from you that was received on 1 May and also contained questions about Romney Weir.

The two requests were combined together and one response was sent to you on 22 May. This response did refer to both your requests received on 1 and 5 May respectively. I have attached a further copy of our response letter dated 22 May.

We then received an e-mail from you dated 5 June, reminding us that we needed to respond to your request. On the 7 June we sent a further copy of our letter dated 22 May.

On 2 July you notified us that this was the incorrect letter and on the 3 July you requested an internal review.

To avoid any further confusion I have copied the questions and our answers below:

In 2009 npower withdrew from developing Romney Weir in Windsor for hydropower.

- Can you please tell me how many developers were involved in the process to replace npower? **A. None, SEPEL was already working with npower on the design proposal to install hydropower at Romney. When npower withdrew financial backing for the proposed scheme SEPEL secured funding from another source and continued with the project.**
- How many developers submitted expressions of interest and how many went forward to the final interview selection process? **A. None, please see explanation above.**
- Were bidders to replace npower at Romney Weir subject to the same process that was used to select developers for Marlow Weir? **A. No, this was a proposed pilot project and was therefore not part of an expression of interest.**

I conclude that on 22 May we responded to the questions in your e-mail of the 5 May and we sent a further copy of our reply on the 7 June. We responded to your questions submitted on 5 May within 13 working days, which is well within the statutory 20 working days permitted, and we have correctly followed our internal procedure for dealing with information requests.

I also conclude that it may not have been helpful to combine the two requests together and I apologise for the confusion this caused.

### **Right of Appeal**

If you are not satisfied with this review you can make an appeal to the Information Commissioner, who is the statutory regulator for freedom of information. The address is:

Office of the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Tel: 01625 545700.

Fax: 01625 524 510.

E-mail: [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk).

Website: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely



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