

Please reply to :
83 Canford Cliffs Road,
Poole, Dorset. BH13 7AH
Tel : 01202-701637
E-mail : terence.stewart@onetel.net

December 5, 2005.

Oliver Letwin MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster. SW1A 0AA.

Dear Oliver,

EDM 1031 Planning and Renewable Energy

Dorset CPRE urges you to sign EDM 1031, since we believe that it is inequitable that an industrial turbine windfarm of only 12 megawatts actual output should bypass the democratic Planning Process and instead be decided by the Department of Trade and Industry with no local knowledge.

The key facts behind this democratic scandal are :

1. The Electricity Act stipulates the *installed* capacity of 50 megawatts.
2. But surveys show that the wind only blows for 24% of the time to turn the blades in Dorset.
3. So the criteria of *installed* capacity is far too low.
4. We advocate that this limit should be increased to 200 megawatts.
5. Because the wind is intermittent, a fossil fuel power station always has to be operating anyway, not saving much CO2.
6. The proposed visual blight turbines in Dorset are almost as tall as Salisbury Cathedral.
7. Industrial turbines are proposed on the breakwaters of Portland Harbour *before* the Sailing Olympics. But this is on the route of migratory birds into Southern England.
8. Studies in the US have shown thousands of birdkills because the blade tips rotate at 170MPH. The blades are wider than the wings of a jumbo jet.
9. Although the Local Authority can request a Public Inquiry on a large DTI windfarm application, they are usually deterred by the cost which can raise to £100,000.
10. The DTI is the lead department in achieving the Government's Renewable Energy target, so is biased in decision making. Their Officers are tasked with overcoming the 'barrier' of the planning system. This is straight *conflict of interest*.
11. The relatively small amount of energy that onshore windfarms produce, is miniscule compared to the energy that could be saved if all the 100,000s of houses the ODPM wants were forced to install increased insulation and solar panels on the roofs.
12. The ROC system of subsidies for windfarms will cost consumers £500M this year alone.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Stewart.
Vice Chairman Dorset CPRE.