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Our ref: EIR 12-0938

23 July 2012

Dear

RE: EIR 12-0938 Wind turbine noise: Amplitude modulation

Thank you for your email of message of 26 June about the wind turbine noise phenomenon known as amplitude modulation.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You asked :

In a written answer on 25th June 2012 (Column 72W) , Charles Hendry; Minister of State (Renewable Energy), Energy and Climate Change stated:

“Studies have considered the noise phenomenon known as amplitude modulation (AM), but show that to date only one wind farm in the UK has presented a noise nuisance to residents. The issue has since been resolved.”

Would DECC please release all information pertaining to the case referred to by the Minister above, specifically:

- I. The nature of the AM issues in this case*
- II. The causes of the AM issues in this case*
- III. How the issues in this case were resolved*
- IV. The name of the wind farm.*

I am setting out below a response to each of the above points you raised below:

Point (iv)

The name of the wind farm site in the case referred to by the Minister in his written answer on 25 June (Hansard reference Column 72W) is Deeping St Nicholas in Lincolnshire.

Points (i) and (ii)

Information relating to the possible nature and causes of AM in this case is set out in a published report by Salford University entitled “ **Research into Aerodynamic Modulation of Wind Turbine Noise**, produced for the then Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Berr), Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in July 2007 . A copy can be viewed at:

http://usir.salford.ac.uk/1554/1/Salford_Uni_Report_Turbine_Sound.pdf

The report looked at four cases where AM noise appeared to be a factor.

Details of specific findings at each site are set out in section 4 of the report.

The report does not give details of the names of the 4 sites assessed, but this information was released by Salford University to the Renewable Energy Foundation (REF) on 12 January 2009 as part of an FOI request. The REF published the information on its website on 6 February 2009 and details can be found at :

<http://docs.wind-watch.org/jclmsalforddatacomment070209c.pdf>

The Deeping St Nicholas site is referred to as the ‘third site’ in chapter 4 of the University of Salford report.

The Salford report concluded :

“Of the four sites where AM was judged by the Local Authority to be present in only one case, which is a recent installation, is there an ongoing investigation. In two cases complaints have largely or completely subsided, in the final case a turbine control system has been installed and, although there are some ongoing complaints, AM is probably not the cause “.

Point (iii)

The Deeping St Nicholas site was subject to a private noise nuisance complaint to the High Court . The case was settled out of court on 29 November 2011 and a copy of a joint press statement released by the parties at the time is at :

http://filesdown.esecure.co.uk/FenlandGreen/Fens_Co-op_-_Press_Release_301111.pdf_01122011-1009-38.pdf

The terms of the settlement are strictly confidential between the Court and parties. DECC does not hold any further information on this case .

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: **Information Rights Unit** (foi@decc.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

DECC Information Rights Unit