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DYFED-POWYS
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER

FOI Ref: OPCC 75-2017

Request

A great deal of police time is being taken up escorting the twice-daily abnormal load convoys travelling from Swansea to the Brechfa West wind farm site on the A485 north of Carmarthen. This has been continuing for months, and I have seen first-hand how many police motorcycle riders that it takes, in addition to a police vehicle.

I am glad that the police have been safeguarding the public in this way, and – again something I have witnessed – trying to ensure that emergency vehicles are not held up in the way that the rest of the traffic is. The importance of this was demonstrated when – very sadly – a local man trying to get to A&E at Glangwili Hospital by car was held up in the traffic tailback and died a few days later.

1. However, I would like to know how much this is costing in police staff time and vehicle mileage/maintenance.
2. Also, has the wind farm developer, RWE Innogy, been invoiced for the full cost?
3. And has the developer paid? Or has the police force borne any of the cost?
4. I think this is something that the public should know. Even if the full costs have been met, has it been possible to back-fill the posts, so that police time for other work has not been reduced?

Response 1:

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does hold the information requested, as outlined below.

The total projected cost for this operation has been estimated at £750k. The full cost of the operation will not be known until it has been completed on the 4th November 2017 as the actual costs are being recorded on a monthly basis and the developer is invoiced on a monthly basis to reflect the actual costs.

Response 2:

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does hold the information requested, as outlined below.

The wind farm developer is invoiced on a monthly basis to reflect the cost of the operation. The monthly costs are specific and actual, reflecting the amount of runs made each day.

This is a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and disclosed on 7th November 2017

Response 3:

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does hold the information requested, as outlined below.

All costs of the operation are covered by the developer under SPS Charging procedures including Police Officer time, mileage, subsistence, vehicle maintenance and accommodation.

Response 4:

I can confirm that there is no information held by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). However, this information may be held by Dyfed-Powys Police.