

Andy

Please see an email below from the applicant's solicitor covering last week's written ministerial statement on solar. Can we catch up on progress later?

You may have seen in the professional press mention of a Written Ministerial Statement ('WMS') on 'Solar and protecting our Food Security and Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Land'

There has been little reporting beyond that, because in all honesty it adds little new to the policy position, and it cannot reasonably be said to have had an adverse impact on our scheme at Hatton.

The WMS deals with the balance between the need for energy security and food security and largely consolidates previous statements.

It is primarily directed towards Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('NSIPs'), albeit is also a material consideration in 'smaller' planning application projects.

Key points include:

1. Regard is had to the grading of BMV Land, so that increased weight is to be given to higher grades.
2. Growing concern about cumulative impacts is reflected.
3. Concern about the quality of surveys is reflected (stating 'The Government will address this by supporting independent certification by an appropriate certifying body, subject to relevant business case approval, to ensure Agricultural Land Classification Soil Surveys are of a high standard, requiring surveyors to demonstrate meeting an agreed minimum requirement of training/experience').
4. There is further encouragement for rooftop deployment.

The WMS applies immediately and (as above) will be a material consideration for all size of schemes.

Also as above, the officers' report for the original consideration of the scheme addressed all of the relevant points adequately (but simply did not refer to the 2015 WMS); the reconsideration, with the additional material and reference to both the 2015 WMS and this WMS satisfactorily deals with all aspects of BMV Land, and will not leave the decision open to challenge.

Kind regards,

Philip Kratz
Consultant - Solicitor, Head of Planning
GSC Solicitors LLP

T:

DDI:

M:

E:

W: www.gscsolicitors.com

31-32 Ely Place, London EC1N 6TD | DX 462 London/Chancery Lane | Fax +44 (0)20 7822 2211

GSC does not accept service of proceedings by email.

GSC (whether on its own behalf or on behalf of its clients or others) does not enter into any contract by email(s) nor make any offers by email(s) which are capable of acceptance. No email(s) from GSC is (or are) intended to, and/or shall not be deemed to, make any disposition of any interest in property (whether on GSC's own behalf or on behalf of its clients or others). The insertion of the name (or other description) of the sender of an email from GSC is not, and must not be taken as, an indication of an intention to affix, the sender's signature so as to so create any contract or make any other disposition.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Please see our privacy policy by following this link: <https://www.gscsolicitors.com/privacy-policy/>



GSC Solicitors LLP ("GSC") is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with number OC337448. Registered office 31-32 Ely Place, London EC1N 6TD. GSC is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). See the [SRA](#) website for the professional rules applicable. In relation to notarial services, the Notary is regulated by the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury. See the [Faculty Office](#) for the professional rules.

A list of the members of the LLP is available for inspection at the registered office, together with a list of those non-members who are also designated as partners. We use the word "partner" to refer to a member of the LLP, or to an employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualifications.

You should check that any attachments are virus free before opening them. Any views or statements in attachments are (unless the context or letter sign off otherwise makes it clear) solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of GSC. This email and any attachments is/are confidential and its/their contents may be legally privileged. GSC does not accept responsibility for commitments made by our staff outside the scope of its business.

This email is intended solely for the person to whom it is addressed and must not be used by anyone who is not the intended recipient. If you receive this communication in error, please email the sender back to inform him/her and delete this message from your system immediately.