



Press Release

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**Government bully boy Sir Andrew Phillipson sets the tone of Infrastructure Planning Commission's examination of EDF's application to build Nuclear Power Station in Somerset**

Local people attending the preliminary meeting of the IPC yesterday were shocked at the attitude of Sir Andrew Phillipson, lead commissioner of the IPC.

When local resident and single mother Nikki Clarke asked who would look at the dangers of nuclear power to the health of local children if the IPC were not prepared to do so, Sir Andrew's response was to tell her that her point was irrelevant; when she tried to continue he had her microphone switched off and adjourned the meeting, asking her to leave.

Hundreds of people attending the meeting were visibly shocked at the sarcastic and disrespectful way Sir Andrew spoke to some local residents who had given up their free time and work to attend the all day meeting. Many were left shaken and angry at the way they had been treated and felt they had not been shown the courtesy and respect they deserved. As they tried to make their points they had to stand up in front of a crowd of hundreds, hold a microphone and read their notes, with Sir Andrew repeatedly interrupting, saying he couldn't hear them and what they were saying was not relevant.

Both Sir Andrew and EDF were similarly dismissive of the three local authorities present when they were explaining that they did not have the resources to cope with the demands of a six month deadline to complete the examination. Somerset County Council, West Somerset District Council and Sedgemoor District Council are amongst the poorest in the country. However they are the only local representatives with the technical knowledge to examine and challenge the detail of EDF's application. Sir Andrew recommended that the local authorities should produce "thinner documents and break it down into smaller chunks" - extraordinary advice given they are having to read and respond to a 30,000 page application from EDF.

Jo Smoldon, a local resident from Chedzoy, said, "Many people I spoke to after the meeting felt they had no confidence in the IPC after seeing how Sir Andrew behaved towards local people. He had the audacity to say that he would be in trouble with his wife if he worked too long hours!"

When long term ME sufferer Cecily Collingridge tried to explain to the Commission why six months was too short a time frame for local people to cope with the demands of the IPC, he instructed staff to switch off her microphone, closed the meeting and, while Cecily continued to speak, he walked out of the hall with the other three members of his Commission.

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