

ATISN 10448 – DOC 43

From: Pembrokeshire CC
Sent: 04 September 2014 12:57
To: Pembrokeshire CC
Cc: WEFO
Subject: RESPONSE TO THE PEMBROKESHIRE HERALD.doc
Importance: High

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personal
information

Please see attached slightly revised version which has been cleared with WEFO

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information

Pembrokeshire County Council
County Hall
Haverfordwest
Pembrokeshire
SA61 1TP

The Pembrokeshire SET Outreach Service is funded by Pembrokeshire County Council, and by the European Structural Funds through the Convergence programmes for West Wales & the Valleys 2007-2013

The Pembrokeshire Advance Secretariat is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013

The Cleddau to Coast Fishing Local Action Group Secretariat is funded by the European Fisheries Fund and the Welsh Government.

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RESPONSE TO THE PEMBROKESHIRE HERALD

Pembrokeshire County Council has seen the correspondence between Lesley Griffith AM and Simon Thomas AM and does not agree with the statement by Plaid Cymru.

It is not the case that procurement rules were not followed in relation to 29 Dimond Street. Works undertaken with the benefit of CPGS grant are not procured by the Council. The Council's role is set out in the Council's Procedure Manual. This Manual has recently been revised in consultation with WEFO. The grant for the property is being recovered and whilst a police investigation into other matters in relation to the property are on-going it would be inappropriate for the Council to comment further.

There is no basis on which Mr Thomas AM can say that there may be other examples within the Commercial Property Grant Scheme, as the Welsh European Funding Office has recently completed a 100% check on all 24 CPGS funded properties and found only two where there were any issues. Both had already been referred to the Police by Pembrokeshire County Council.

As Mrs Griffith's letter makes clear, WEFO are satisfied that the Council has taken appropriate action and has lifted the payment suppression, both positive points that the statement from Plaid Cymru chose to overlook.

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From: WEFO
Sent: 04 September 2014 12:52
To: Pembrokeshire CC
Subject: FW: URGENT

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Thanks for sight of this. A few comments. Shall I call you to explain the changes?

Thanks.

Welsh European Funding Office/Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru

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Dilynwch ni ar Twitter: www.twitter.com/wefocymru / Follow us on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/wefowales

From: Pembrokeshire CC
Sent: 04 September 2014 12:01
To: WEFO
Subject: URGENT
Importance: High

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As discussed. Would WEFO please clear the proposed response? An urgent response is needed as we're up against the print deadline.

Sorry – this only came in 30 mins ago!

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The Pembrokeshire Advance Secretariat is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013

RESPONSE TO THE PEMBROKESHIRE HERALD

Pembrokeshire County Council has seen the correspondence between Lesley Griffith AM and Simon Thomas AM and does not agree with the statement by Plaid Cymru.

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It is not the case that procurement rules were not followed in relation to 29 Dimond Street. Works undertaken with the benefit of CPGS grant are not procured by the Council. The Council's role is set out in its ??? the [need to clarify whose manual this is, otherwise they will think it's WEFO's or something] Procedure Manual. This Manual has recently been revised in consultation with WEFO. The grant for the property is being recovered and whilst a police investigation into other matters in relation to the property are on-going it would be inappropriate for the Council to comment further.

~~There is no basis on which Mr Thomas AM can say that there may be other examples, as the Welsh European Funding Office has recently completed a 100% check on all 24 CPGS funded properties and found only two where there were any issues. Both had already been referred to the Police by Pembrokeshire County Council.~~ [we cannot link the two statements here as WEFO's checks were specific to EU funds only, and from the above it suggests that we took wider checks of all PCC procurement activity which is not the case],

As Mrs Griffith's letter makes clear, WEFO are satisfied that the Council has taken appropriate action and has lifted the payment suppression, both positive points that the statement from Plaid Cymru chose to overlook.