

Statement of Felicity Roe 8 December 2020 – SG 15

I have been asked to clarify my understanding of the unredacted copy of SW3 '12 April 2019 comment on Rockets grant application' (attached).

This is a spreadsheet entry of the grants officer [REDACTED] in my Department.

[REDACTED] sent Cllr Woodward regular spreadsheets detailing the grant applications that had been received and the progress on them. The spreadsheets contained various columns, one being for officer comments and another being for Cllr Woodward to add his comments against any grant application.

[REDACTED] sent Cllr Woodward the attached spreadsheet (RHCF application summary) on 12/04/2019. The officer comments are from [REDACTED]. Against The Rockets entry at line 17 is the officer entry in bold: 'Suggest early decision by the end of April to be noted in May Decision Day report so the organisation can plan the upcoming show season accordingly as summer bookings require long lead in times'.

There is no such thing as an early decision and as [REDACTED] is on leave today I have been unable to speak to her yet about what she meant by that statement. However I presume she is suggesting some form of indication to the organisation of an intent to approve. She is clearly not suggesting moving the May decision day as she references that the 'early decision to be noted at the May decision day'. The only binding decision would be the one on Decision Day. I also have no indication of how [REDACTED] knew of the upcoming show season issue and any time pressures as it does not appear to be in the grant application form.

Subsequent correspondence shows that it was Cllr Woodward who asked for the Decision Day to be brought forward. He originally suggested April. Officers in Democratic Services said there wasn't time and suggested the afternoon of 7 May. Cllr Woodward came back agreeing 7 May and said 9am.

Paragraphs 15, 16 ,17 of my statement (SG4) reference the process to bring forward Cllr Woodward's decision day. They are supported by pages 4 onwards in SG13 which shows the sequence of emails arising from the request from Cllr Woodward to bring the decision day forward to April.



Felicity Roe
Director
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Three Minsters House
76 High Street
Winchester

SO23 8UL

e-mail: felicity.roe@hants.gov.uk

tel: 01962 847876

6pm Tuesday 8/12: Update to Statement of Felicity Roe 8 December 2020 – SG 15

██████ has been on leave today but at 5pm I finally managed to speak to her. She says she received the grant application from The Rockets on 23 March. ██████ was then on leave 25-29 March. On her return from leave she started to process the application. She has a note in her diary that on 10 April Nicola Horsey requested that she call her. ██████ has no written note of the phone call but is as sure as she can be that during that phone call Nicola told her that Cllr Woodward had called and said that he wanted the Rockets grant to be processed quickly and to get quickly to decision. ██████ said that that was then the reason that her officer comment was put into the spreadsheet on 12 April - to justify fast forwarding the processing of the application to the May decision. The email from ██████ to me of 17 April (17:11pm) (SG13 page 5) reads:

Dear Felicity,

Nicola advised me verbally that Cllr Woodward was keen to make some decisions before the next decision day, ideally before the end of April.

Yours,

██████

██████'s recall is that this email refers to the phone call with Nicola on the 10 April.

██████ commented that she knew there is no such thing as an early decision and explained that she meant some form of indication to the organisation of an intent to approve. She is clear she was not suggesting an early decision day as she references that the 'early decision to be noted at the May decision day'. The only binding decision would be the one on Decision Day.

The request for the move of the Decision Day came from Cllr Woodward as documented in the emails in SG13 page 5 onwards.

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Director
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Three Minsters House
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Winchester
SO23 8UL
e-mail: felicity.roe@hants.gov.uk
tel: 01962 847876

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