

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.

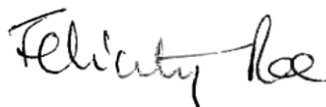
[REDACTED] sent Cllr Woodward regular spreadsheets detailing the grant applications that had been received and the progress on them. The spreadsheets contained various columns, one being for officer comments and another being for Cllr Woodward to add his comments against any grant application.

[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.



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