

Funding Agency and Schools Commissioner to look into what was going on at the trust, which is responsible for 13 academies across the East Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside.

Correspondence seen by the *Eye* reveals

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Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire last month reported expected cuts of 40 support staff in the schools, to save £1m. DRET is also to charge the individual schools significantly more for central admin services such as payroll and HR this year.

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## RENEWABLES

### Wind chill

**A**N *EYE* reader in Scotland was interested to read in *Eye* 1440 about Mark Shorrock, the CEO whose proposed Swansea Tidal Lagoon would lead to another of his firms, Shire Oak Quarries, digging out millions of tonnes of rock in a Cornish area of outstanding natural beauty.

Our reader had his own brush with the green energy entrepreneur some years back when Shorrock in 2003 announced that he was planning to build Europe's biggest windfarm, with more than 500 turbines, in the west Highlands. The spot he had chosen, near Ardnamurchan and Morvern, was designated a national scenic area and a site of special scientific interest, with populations of golden eagles and other birds of prey such as the osprey, red kite and merlin.

Local resident Richard Saville-Smith said at the time: "This has nothing to do with being green but everything to do with making money

for speculative developers and estate owners."

As chief executive of Wind Energy Ltd, Shorrock initially asked for planning permission to put up five masts to test the viability of local wind power. The following year, Wind Energy's managing director Mike Davies backtracked on Shorrock's proposal and said a 500-turbine development was "very unlikely". He added that Shorrock was no longer chief executive but remained on the board.

Highland council was unimpressed and turned down the application for all but one anemometer, which tests wind capacity. The local authority had received around a thousand objections to the wind turbine developments so the idea for Europe's largest windfarm withered away.

Shorrock's determination to become a green energy magnate remains undimmed. He is still awaiting news on whether the government will award his Swansea Tidal Lagoon a "contract for difference", which would signal the go-ahead for the lagoon and for quarrying to begin on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall.