



The chief executive of the company behind plans for a tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay has been accused of failing to provide "accurate information" to MPs following questions over financial inducements to a Cornish council.

## Lagoon bid chief exec accused of inaccuracy over answers

THE chief executive of the company behind plans for a tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay has been accused of failing to provide "accurate information" to MPs.

Grilled by MPs earlier this month, Mark Shorrock, of Tidal Lagoon Power, denied that one of his companies had offered "financial inducement" to a parish council so it would support planning permission for a Cornish quarry project.

A draft agreement then surfaced between Shire Oak Quarries and St Keverne Parish Council which suggested the company would create a "community benefit fund". He was then asked by the chairs of the Welsh Affairs and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy committees to provide "urgent clarification".

Welsh Affairs chair and Monmouth Conservative MP David Davies and Labour Beis chair Rachel Reeves stated that they are "not convinced" by Mr Shorrock's response, saying that his "apology relates to scope for misinterpretation of our questions rather than the inaccuracy of your own answers".

They add: "You agree that Shire Oak Quarries Ltd (SOQ) offered in a draft agreement with St Keverne Parish Council the establishment of a community fund and that the council would provide 'reasonable support' to any future planning by your company pertaining to Dean Quarry. It is difficult to regard this as anything other than a financial inducement..."

"Given that you found 'no ambi-

guity' in the questions put to you, it is unfortunate that, instead of taking the opportunity to put the record straight in relation to the accusations, of which you were clearly aware, you chose to twice deny that there was any financial inducement offered... "We deeply regret that you failed to provide accurate information to our committees during the evidence session and trust that in future you will provide transparent and accurate responses to legitimate questions in order to facilitate a decision on the project, which we hope will be made shortly."

Mr Shorrock accepted the "questions may have left scope for misinterpretation, wilful or otherwise, of the answers given, for which I apologise".

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