

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@london.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@london.gov.uk)>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@newham.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@newham.gov.uk)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@westhamunited.co.uk](mailto:[redacted]@westhamunited.co.uk)>; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Telegraph Vinci article
Date: 24 March 2015 15:05:52

Thanks but he already has it.

I've sent the Standard our comment and VINCI's statement.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 March 2015 15:04
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@newham.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@newham.gov.uk)>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Telegraph Vinci article

Shouldn't we also point them to the Vinci statement ?

Sent from my iPad

On 24 Mar 2015, at 14:52, [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@londonlegacy.co.uk](mailto:[redacted]@londonlegacy.co.uk)> wrote:

Article running in Telegraph below. We've been approached by Standard and will issue the line below:

A Legacy Corporation spokesperson said: "We appointed VINCI Concessions, which has a successful track record of stadia management, as our Stadium Operator following a rigorous procurement process. The contract with VINCI Concessions requires that the company pays the London Living Wage and engages fully with our wider community programme including creating apprenticeships and job opportunities for local people."

[redacted]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/olympics/11492043/Olympic-Stadium-operators-accused-of-forced-labour-in-Qatar-for-build-up-to-2022-World-Cup.html>

Olympic Stadium operators accused of forced labour in Qatar for build up to 2022 World Cup

French firm Vinci, who will manage London 2012 centrepiece for next 25 years, is subject of complaint lodged with prosecutor by campaign group Sherpa

In French hands: Vinci, who manage London Olympic Stadium, deny claims by campaign group Sherpa of forced labour in Qatar Photo: PA

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By [Ben Rumsby](#)

1:29PM GMT 24 Mar 2015

<image001.gif>[Comment](#)

The company appointed to run the Olympic Stadium is facing a legal claim alleging it allows “forced labour” on construction projects designed to prepare Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup.

French firm Vinci, which was last month awarded the contract to manage the London 2012 centrepiece, was the subject of a complaint lodged with a prosecutor on Monday by campaign group Sherpa.

Vinci, which also operates the Stade de France, responded on Tuesday by categorically denying the allegations made by the non-governmental organisation.

• [Qatar’s response to abuse of migrants is 'woeful', says Amnesty International](#)

The claims emerged just seven weeks after Vinci was announced as the winner of the battle to run the Olympic Stadium for the next 25 years.

It will be handed the keys to the iconic venue ahead of the Rugby World Cup, which will stage five matches there, and will work with West Ham United to ensure it is ready for their move there next year.

The soon-to-be £600 million stadium will also become the home of UK Athletics and will stage the 2017 World Athletics and IPC Athletics World Championships.

Vinci will be responsible for bringing other events and activities to the venue on days when it is not being used by West Ham.

Sherpa said its complaint, filed with the prosecutor’s office in the Parisian suburb of Nanterre, followed a months-long investigation into the conditions faced by migrant workers in Qatar.

It claimed to have interviewed employees of Qatari Diar Vinci Construction – a joint venture company between Qatari Diar and Vinci Construction Grands Projets – who provided testimony alleging the kind of abuses reported on other building sites in the country.

They include claims of the confiscation of workers' passports, which Sherpa said amounted to "forced labour" and "keeping someone in servitude".

Such allegations were utterly rejected by a spokesman for Vinci, who said: "Vinci absolutely denies the claims made by Sherpa.

"The group respects local labour laws and fundamental rights in Qatar as well as in all the countries where it operates."

He also said the company had yet to be notified about the Sherpa complaint, which will be assessed by a prosecutor to determine whether a formal investigation is warranted.

"In Qatar, each QDVC collaborator has free access to his passport, while work and rest times are strictly respected," he added.

Britain's shadow sports minister, Clive Efford, told *Telegraph Sport* that if the allegations were proven, it would represent such an "atrocious" that Vinci should be prevented from running the Olympic Stadium.

He said: "I would say that if it is proven that a company has been facilitating an abuse of human rights anywhere in the world, that is a company that we shouldn't be allowing to operate an iconic facility like the Olympic Stadium."

A West Ham spokesman said: "West Ham United did not appoint the Stadium operator and has no contract with Vinci." UK Athletics declined to comment on the allegations, while *Telegraph Sport* was seeking comment on Tuesday from the London Legacy Development Corporation – which is ultimately in charge of the stadium – and Rugby World Cup organisers England Rugby 2015.

Sherpa is not the only organisation to make allegations about the exploitation of migrant workers building the infrastructure that will allow Qatar to stage the 2022 World Cup.

A year and a half ago, Amnesty International published *The Dark Side of Migration*, which documented the deaths and inhumane abuse of those on building sites in the country.

Organisers of the 2022 World Cup have put in place a workers' charter they say guarantees a similar plight would not be faced by workers on projects for which they are directly responsible – mainly stadium construction.

Qatar's government admitted last week there was still no timetable for the reforms of its labour laws promised in July but insisted it was still committed to implementing new legislation.



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Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is now open. For more information please visit
www.QueenElizabethOlympicPark.co.uk

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