

Agenda – Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee room 3 Senedd
and video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 12 December 2024

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Marc Wyn Jones

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Private pre-meeting (09.15–09.30)

Public meeting (09.30–11.00)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Stage 1 scrutiny of the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill – Evidence session with the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

(09.30–11.00)

Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Chris Jones, Deputy Director, Mining Legacy and Reservoir Safety – Welsh Government

Madeline Rees, Lawyer – Welsh Government

The Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill

Explanatory Memorandum (incorporating the Regulatory Impact Assessment and Explanatory Notes)



3 Papers to note (11.00)

3.1 Decarbonisation of housing

(Pages 1 – 2)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government in relation to decarbonisation of housing

Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government to the Chair in relation to decarbonisation of housing

3.2 Scrutiny of Transport for Wales

(Pages 3 – 4)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to James Price, Chief Executive, Transport for Wales in relation to the scrutiny of Transport for Wales

3.3 Flooding in Wales

(Pages 5 – 9)

Attached Documents:

Letter from Andrew RT Davies to the Chair in relation to the Welsh Government responses to the experiences and aftermath of Storm Dennis

Letter from Heledd Fychan MS to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs in relation to flooding in Wales

3.4 Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill

(Pages 10 – 11)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee to the Chair in relation to the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill

Response from the Chair to the Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee in relation to the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill

3.5 The UK Emissions Trading Scheme

(Pages 12 – 13)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair in relation to the UK Emissions Trading Scheme

3.6 Legislative Consent: Great British Energy Bill

(Pages 14 – 17)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to the Chair in relation to the Committee's report: Report on Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Great British Energy Bill

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting

(11.00)

Private meeting (11.00–12.00)

5 Consideration of evidence received under item 2

6 Consideration of the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum No.3 on the Water (Special Measures) Bill

(Pages 18 – 28)

Attached Documents:

Legal note on the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum No.3 on the Water (Special Measures) Bill

7 Consideration of draft letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning in relation to energy, planning and transport

(Pages 29 – 32)

Attached Documents:

Draft letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning in relation to energy, planning and transport

8 Consideration of draft letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales in relation to transport

(Pages 33 – 37)

Attached Documents:

Draft letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales in relation to transport

9 Consideration of draft report on halting and reversing the loss of nature by 2030

(Pages 38 – 85)

Attached Documents:

Draft report on halting and reversing the loss of nature by 2030

10 Consideration of the Committee's forward work programme – Spring 2025

(Pages 86 – 91)

Attached Documents:

Forward work programme – Spring 2025

Jayne Bryant MS

Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

31 October 2024

Dear Jayne,

You will be aware that this Committee has taken a keen interest in the decarbonisation of housing during this Senedd term.

In light of your recent appointment as Cabinet Secretary, I felt that it would be timely to write to you to seek an update about your priorities in this policy area. In particular, you will be aware that your predecessor tasked a Decarbonisation of Existing Homes Implementation Group with the preparation of a route map for decarbonising existing housing stock. I would be grateful if you would provide the Committee with an update on the status of the group and your plans for taking its work forward. I would also be grateful if you would commit to publishing the Group's route map and your response to it.

I hope we will be able to invite you to appear before the Committee in due course for further discussions on this important policy area. In the meantime, I should be grateful for a response as soon as possible, and by 28 November at the latest.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Jayne Bryant AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Tai
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Senedd Cymru

28 November 2024

Dear Llyr,

Thank you for your letter of 31 October requesting an update on my priorities for housing decarbonisation, in particular the status of the Decarbonisation Implementation Group and the publication of a routemap.

The foundations of our policy on the decarbonisation of housing are largely set out in the Heat Strategy, published on 15 July. Given the synergy between the proposed residential sector action plan to support the Strategy and a routemap for housing decarbonisation, we have taken the decision to publish one document early in the Spring term.

The Decarbonisation Implementation Group ended its work in April, and we are reviewing our arrangements regarding stakeholder groups. We received a proposed routemap from the Chair of the Group and have been considering its content alongside recommendations from Senedd committees, the Climate Change Committee and other key stakeholders as we finalise our routemap and action plan for the residential sector.

In the meantime, we are delivering a suite of policies to implement energy efficiency, low carbon heating and renewable energy generation to decarbonise homes in Wales. This includes financial support for decarbonisation through our grants to social landlords, our Warm Homes Nest scheme and our recently launched Green Homes Wales loan scheme, administered by Development Bank for Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Bryant AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

James Price

Chief Executive, Transport for Wales

26 November 2024

7 November Committee visit

Dear James,

I am writing on behalf of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee to thank you and TfW staff for hosting our recent visit to the TfW Metro Depot and Infrastructure Control Centre in Taff's Well.

The Committee enjoyed the tour of the facilities and conversations with Dan Tipper and other TfW staff, which were informative and will be important to our ongoing work in scrutinising the Welsh Government in the area of transport in Wales.

The Committee would also like to use this opportunity to follow up on recommendations from our [Report on rail services and Transport for Wales' performance 2023-24](#), to which TfW [agreed](#) to write to the Committee with an update in November 2024.

- **Recommendation 6.** TfW should update the Committee within the next 6 months on progress in further reducing the gender pay gap and improving workforce diversity.
- **Recommendation 11.** TfW should provide the Committee with an update within the next 6 months on progress towards the target of 95% of journeys being on new trains by the end of 2024.
- **Recommendation 12.** TfW should report back to this Committee on the outcome of its review into rail services and timetables within the next six months.
- **Recommendation 14.** TfW must improve its service provision around major events. It should report back to the Committee within the next six months on the steps it has taken in this regard.

- **Recommendation 20.** TfW should provide an update within six months on progress in relation to its work with Corporate Joint Committees and the Active Travel Fund.

We look forward to receiving updates to the above recommendations as well as updates on the Metro schemes, the rollout of the new Tram Units, and wider investment into developing an improved rail service to the people of Wales.

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, Committee clerks will be in touch to coordinate a suitable date for our next annual scrutiny session.

Kind regards,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,

Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Andrew RT Davies MS

Aelod o'r Senedd dros
Ganol De Cymru

Member of the Senedd for
South Wales Central

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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Via email: llyr.gruffydd@senedd.wales

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
Andrew RT Davies @senedd.cymru

Agenda Item 3.3

Welsh Parliament

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@andrewrt.davies 

@AndrewRTDavies 

/AndrewRTDaviesAM 

25th November 2024

Our ref: ARTD/JM

Dear Llyr,

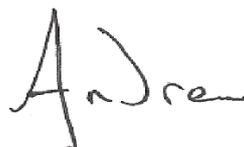
Following the devastating flooding across Wales over the weekend, and in particular Rhondda Cynon Taf in my electoral region of South Wales Central, I am writing to ask the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee to undertake an inquiry into the Welsh Government and relevant agencies' responses to the experiences and aftermath of Storm Dennis in 2020.

I would like to ask the Committee to investigate the following:

1. What actions were recommended following Storm Dennis to improve the Welsh Government and all relevant agencies' future responses?
2. How these recommendations informed the Welsh Government and its relevant agencies' strategies in preparation for and in response to Storm Bert?

As I am sure you will agree, it is essential that the people of Wales have full confidence in the Welsh Government's ability to respond effectively to such incidents and the destruction that it causes in communities. I would urge the committee to undertake this vital exercise to gain answers for those affected by the devastation of Storm Bert across Wales.

With kind regards,



Andrew RT Davies MS
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives

27 November 2024

Pwnc | Subject: Support for flooded communities in South Wales Central

Dear Deputy First Minister,

As you will be aware, Storm Bert left its mark on many of the communities I represent in South Wales Central. A significant number of homes and businesses were devastated by flooding, many for the second, third and fourth time since 2020. People are devastated, and many are also angry.

Questions are again being asked why no independent inquiry took place after the floods of 2020. People are also angry that progress has been slow, or non-existent in some instances. Lessons that should have been learnt after they were last flooded were not heeded resulting in many experiencing the same issues and frustrations as they did when previously flooded namely:

- receiving flood warnings via Natural Resources Wales once water was already in their home or business;
- not receiving sandbags prior to being flooded, and not able to get through on the phone to ask for sandbags when they saw the water rising and knew they were likely to flood;
- being denied flood gates and/or barriers and being told they were unlikely to flood again (despite other people on the same street receiving flood gates and having far less damage in their properties, or no flooding at all this time.)

Most homes flooded are covered by insurance, and I have been proactive in recent years in making everyone in my region aware of the Flood Re scheme. However, as you are aware, there is no such scheme for businesses – something which I've raised countless times with the Welsh Government since being elected to the Senedd in 2021.

I have met with the Association of British Insurers on this matter and would ask that Welsh Government explores effective and immediate options to support businesses who are in this position. Where there is no mitigating flood alleviation works planned and we know there are businesses that are uninsured, there should be a Welsh Government business support scheme in place to ensure these businesses can recoup their losses and furnished in a way that minimises damage.

The First Minister stated in a news interview with Newyddion on 25.11.24 in relation to support for businesses who can't get insurance: *"Yn amlwg mi fydd rhaid i ni weld beth fyddwn ni'n gallu ei wneud iddyn nhw o ran helpu nhw gyda yswiriant a pethau felly, ond bydd rhaid cael y trafodaeth yna gan y Llywodraeth a gweld beth allwn ni wneud"* (Translates to: *"Obviously we will have to see what we can do for them in terms of helping them with insurance and things like that, but we will have to have that discussion from the Government and see what we can do".*)

Can you please clarify what the First Minister meant in relation to helping with insurance so that I can share with the businesses that have been in touch with me? One business estimates that they have lost circa £25,000 worth of stock, and I'm sure that many others will be in a similar situation.

But even for those covered by insurance, the trauma of what's happened will stay with them and they will be fearful every time it rains heavily that they will be flooded again. Greater support is needed for at risk communities, and I would be grateful if you could also provide answers to the following questions:

1. How will residents and business owners be able to access flood protection measure such as building adaptations, flood gates, electrical rewiring for future proofing etc and who should they contact to be assessed for these measures so that they can receive the ones most suitable for them?
2. What progress has been made on the recommendations set out in Professor Elwen Evans KC's Review of Local Government Section 19 and Natural Resources Wales' reports into extreme flooding in Wales, 2020-21?
3. Does Natural Resources Wales now have enough staff and budget to undertake their duties in relation to flood prevention? I note that their review into the 2020 floods stated the following: *"Delivering key improvements to the service will require adequate support in both funding and resources and those discussions will continue with the Welsh Government. It is roughly estimated that 60-70 additional members of staff are needed over the long term to sustain the overall service and to address the actions set out in our flood review. Additional resources will also be required to address the recommendations made to reduce flood risk as set out in the land management review."*¹

How has this recommendation been addressed? I'd be grateful if you could please outline how many staff they had in February 2021 and how many they have now working on addressing the actions set out in the review and also outline the budget made available to them in every consecutive budget since then? One resident has been told by a NRW member of staff that there has been a decrease in terms of staff and budget since 2021 – complete transparency on this is essential.

4. What support is being made available to take a whole community approach to flood prevention and mitigation? Taking Pontypridd as an example, are there plans to develop a plan for the town centre as a whole, and nearby streets such as Berw Road and Sion Street? Currently, every home and every business on an individual basis is looking into protective measures and trying to access funding. Will the Welsh Government commit to funding a holistic approach?
5. The First Minister has said that thousands of homes were saved as a result of investment made since 2020, and yesterday in plenary, you stated that hundreds had been saved. Whilst I very much hope that is the case as the funding was part of the Cooperation Agreement, will you publish the data which evidences this please as it will help businesses and residents in terms of insurance premiums if this information is made publicly available? And if you don't have the information yet, please can you outline when this will be available and be mindful of the messaging in the meantime? I worry that we are giving communities who are at risk a false sense of security with such sweeping statements, unless they can be evidenced.

During Storm Dennis (2020), South Wales experienced intense, short-duration rainfall with severe impacts. For example, 130.4mm of rain fell in 24 hours at Nant yr Ysfa, equivalent to 72% of a month's rainfall, while Tyn-Y-Waun recorded 132.4mm in 24 hours (62% of a month's rainfall).

River Taffat Pontypridd saw a peak flow of 805 m³/s, the highest on record, causing extensive flooding, with 2,765 properties affected across South Wales.

February 2020 followed months of persistent wet weather, meaning ground conditions were already saturated, worsening flooding impacts.

Storm Bert (2024) produced higher cumulative rainfall over 48 hours (171.6mm recorded at Tyn-Y-Waun) but spread over a longer duration, reducing peak intensity and the immediate risk of flooding.

Provisional data suggests lower peak river flows during Storm Bert compared to Storm Dennis, contributing to fewer properties flooded (200–300 in RCT).

While flood defences may have played a role in reducing property impacts during Storm Bert, the lower flood intensity, drier antecedent ground conditions, and longer rainfall duration were significant factors. The Welsh Government's claims overlook these hydrological differences and do not provide evidence of flood defence performance under conditions comparable to Storm Dennis.

6. The National Flood Forum is paid to support several communities in Wales and is very effective at supporting communities. However, the funding they receive is sporadic and normally short-term. Whilst Natural Resources Wales has information on the website in terms of community resilience, they do not have capacity to support flood action groups in every at-risk community in Wales. There is also a question regarding if this is a role they should play, as they are not seen as a neutral party by communities that suffer flooding. Will the Welsh Government commit to working with the National Flood Forum on the establishment of a Welsh Flood Forum, as has happened in Scotland? I would be very happy to facilitate a meeting between the National Flood Forum and work with relevant officers to explore how we could take this proposal forward, as Hefin David did when he was commissioned to undertake the Transitions to Employment Report.
7. Taking Clydach Terrace as an example, nearly five years after Storm Dennis, residents continue to be at risk and options are still being considered. How can we now progress so that there is a resolution?
8. Two coal tips have now slipped because of more extreme weather, one in my region in 2020, and one in another region this week. Many communities that I represent live in the shadow on these tips, many of which are Category D, and are terrified that another Aberfan may happen again. What work is now being done to assess all coal tips following Storm Bert, and what assurances can be provided to these communities? Will you now be seeking urgent additional funding from the UK Government to ensure all coal tips are made safe?

I'm grateful that you've agreed to meet with me next week and I look forward to being able to discuss these matters with you directly.

Regards,



Heledd Fychan MS

Y Dwyllgor Busnes Agenda Item 3.4

Business Committee

Senedd Cymru

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Llyr Gruffydd MS

Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure
Committee

19 November 2024

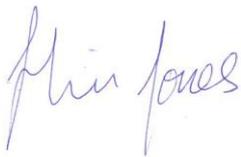
The Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill

Dear Llyr,

At its meeting this week, the Business Committee considered a paper from the Government on the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill. The Business Committee agreed in principle to refer the Bill to the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny.

I enclose the Minister's paper for your consideration. I would be grateful if you could respond to us outlining your views on the timetable by noon on Friday 29 November. Please be aware that it is a private paper and not for publication or circulation other than to committee members.

Kind regards,



The Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Right Honourable Elin Jones MS
Llywydd and Chair, Business Committee

27 November 2024

Dear Elin,

Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill: scrutiny timetable

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2024 seeking the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee's views on the proposed timetable for scrutiny of the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill.

The Committee considered the proposed timetable at its meeting on 27 November 2024. The Committee is content with the Stage 1 reporting deadline of 4 April 2025 and the deadline for completion of Stage 2 proceedings of 13 June 2025.

As I have stated in previous correspondence with the Business Committee, the Committee's legislative workload for the rest of this Senedd term is considerable. The Welsh Government has committed to introducing bills on Bus Franchising and Environmental Governance before the end of this Senedd term. I would ask the Business Committee to do all it can to avoid a situation where the Committee is being asked to scrutinise more than one Bill simultaneously. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind the Business Committee that the legislative workload will seriously limit the Committee's capacity to undertake policy scrutiny during the remainder of this Senedd term.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 3.5

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: HIDCC/PO/0354/24

Llŷr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff
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29 November 2024

Dear Llŷr,

I am writing to inform you the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) Authority (comprising of the Welsh Government, the UK Government, the Scottish Government, and the Northern Ireland Executive), has published two consultations on the expansion of the UK ETS. The first concerns the expansion of the scheme to include the domestic maritime sector, and the second provides further detail on proposals to recognise non-pipeline transport (NPT) methods, i.e. shipping, road or rail for moving captured carbon into geological storage. Additionally, an initial Authority Response is being published regarding the free allocation treatment and definition of permanent cessations of activity in the scheme.

In July 2023 the Authority confirmed its intention to bring domestic maritime into the scheme from 2026. This will begin with a ship threshold of 5000GT, although there is a commitment to reassess this threshold by 2026. The consultation provides further details on how this expansion will be implemented, giving clarity to drive investment in decarbonisation.

The consultation on NPT follows the Authority's announcement, also last July, that it intends to recognise NPT methods of CO₂ transport. Recognising this within the UK ETS will ensure that operators transporting CO₂ for storage can deduct the amount they send to storage from their reportable emissions, providing economic support for industrial sites without access to pipelines. This is particularly crucial for industry in Wales without suitable storage options such as the South Wales Industrial Cluster. This consultation aims to provide more detail and consult on the regulatory framework required to recognise and implement NPT in the ETS.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Authority, along with officials across the Welsh Government, will engage extensively with affected stakeholders to gather views to support final decisions on how the UK ETS will be expanded. These reforms to the UK ETS will require amendments to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Order 2020, so the Senedd along with other UK Parliaments will have the opportunity to scrutinise plans once they are finalised.

The initial Authority Response follows proposals to make two technical changes to free allocation rules within the Free Allocation Review consultation released in December 2023. One is to the treatment of permanent cessations and the other is to clarify the definition of a permanent cessation. Free allocations are allowances provided for free to industries with global competitors from countries with less ambitious climate policies. Free allocations are currently the primary policy lever in mitigating carbon leakage.

Under current rules, when permanent cessation of an activity occurs, operators keep free allocations they were entitled to during the final year in which they operated. However, free allocation levels are calculated based on average activity levels within the 5 years prior. These rules can therefore lead to some operators receiving more allowances in their final year than required to mitigate carbon leakage, and in some cases in excess of their reported emissions. The new rules will alter this so that the level of allowances given in the final year of operation would be based on actual activity levels for that final year. An exception to the new rule will be in place for when cessation of an activity occurs for the purposes of decarbonisation e.g., installation of new technology. Participants closing for decarbonisation will therefore be able to retain the full entitlement of free allocation, subject to sufficient evidence being provided. This is in line with maintaining the scheme's incentive to decarbonise. These rule changes will require changes to the legislation, which will be taken in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Order 2025. This is currently aimed to be laid in the Senedd in December 2024, with the in-force date in February 2025.

The UK ETS continues to be a highly important policy lever in Wales, providing a vital investment signal in the decarbonisation required to meet our Net Zero goals. The information collected in these consultations will play a crucial role in shaping the expansion of the scheme, ultimately increasing the greenhouse gas emissions included under its emissions cap. Making the changes to free allocation rules will also improve equity and targeting of free allocation in the scheme, ensuring it can be used for participants who need it most. I expect to write again regarding the outcome of the consultations and further policy proposals in the coming months. I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs



Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Great British Energy Bill

Response to report of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Summary

The Great British Energy Bill (“the Bill”) was introduced in the House of Commons on the 25th of July 2024. Certain elements of the Bill require the legislative consent of the Senedd and on 8 August 2024, the then Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Transport and North Wales laid a Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Great British Energy Bill (‘the LCM’) before the Senedd.

The LCM was referred to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution (‘LJC’) Committee with a reporting deadline of 15 November 2024. This has now been updated to 10 January 2025.

The Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee considered the LCM at its meeting on 3 October 2024 and their report on the LCM was laid on the 21 October. This is a response to the issues raised by the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

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1. Response to issues raised by the Committee

The Committee report highlighted a number of questions which are addressed here.

1. The Committee requested an update of issues discussed with UK Government.

I have previously stated we are supportive of legislation to establish Great British Energy to help facilitate and encourage the development of renewable energy projects. The Legislative Consent Memorandum, laid by the then Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Transport and North Wales, highlighted our view that consent for the legislation would be required but was neutral on the point of making recommendations to the Senedd until further discussions had taken place.

The Bill is a narrow piece of legislation which makes provision for the designation, status, governance, objects, strategic direction and accountability of Great British Energy (GBE). I met with Michael Shanks, the lead Minister for the Bill in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, on 24 October and again on the 13 November. Our discussions were focussed on necessary improvements to the Bill and on matters which are not part of the legislation but are about how we can work in partnership in the future when GBE is operational.

I have provided an update below on the Bill itself and on the discussions to date about how GBE may work with our own energy company Trydan Gwyrdd and with Ynni Cymru.

2. The Committee's report highlighted concerns about the potential impact and duplication of functions of GBE on Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru.

The Bill provides for the designation of a company as GBE and sets its objects. GBE is still being developed and discussions about how I will work in partnership with the UK Government, through Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru and Ynni Cymru, are ongoing.

The Bill itself does not impact on the work of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru. Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru is in a more advanced position than Great British Energy. I see opportunities to increase the scope of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru's operation through collaborative work with Great British Energy which will help to avoid duplication. I have had positive discussions regarding Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru and expect these to continue as the thinking around GBE continues to develop.

3. The Committee report requested clarification of any potential overlap between the remit, aims and operation of GBE and those of Ynni Cymru, the Welsh Energy Service and Community Energy Wales

I do not consider there is an overlap. Ynni Cymru, Welsh Government Energy Service and Community Energy Wales are organisations and programmes that can all support the delivery of projects in Wales through partnership working with GB Energy.

4. The Committee also asked for clarification on how opportunity for Senedd scrutiny of the Statement of Priorities to be issued by the Secretary of State to GBE Senedd can be ensured.

Clause 5 of the Bill provides that the Secretary of State must prepare a statement of strategic priorities for GB Energy. Before making a statement, the Secretary of State must consult with the Welsh Ministers to the extent that the statement concerns subject matters within the Senedd's legislative competence. As currently drafted, the Statement of Strategic Priorities is not subject to any specific legislative scrutiny upon the preparation of the statement by UK Government, beyond scrutiny through the passage of the Bill.

5. The Committee highlighted concerns that the Secretary of State is required only to consult the Welsh Ministers, rather than to seek the consent of the Welsh Ministers for any strategic priorities concerning devolved matters.

It is essential that devolved responsibilities are properly reflected in the governance of GB Energy, and I am continuing to discuss how best to ensure that can be achieved. I have written to and discussed this matter with the UK Ministers and these discussions are continuing.

Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted

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Agenda Item 9

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 10

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

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