

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith /
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd / Priorities for the Sixth Senedd
PR76

Ymateb gan Christopher Jessop / Evidence from Christopher Jessop

My submission relates to the Minister and Deputy Minister's priorities for the next 12-18 months (Joint letter 30th July 2021 Julie James AS/MS & Lee Waters AS/MS to Llyr Gruffydd MS, Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee).

Item One

Ref the section on **Energy**, statement on Page 2 as follows: "...the Welsh Government has set targets for renewable energy: for renewables to generate an amount equivalent to 70% of Wales' electricity use by 2030;...".

I object to the Minister and Deputy Minister accepting this target, because it is far too low:

1. Wales has huge renewable energy resources and there is a moral obligation to exploit them for their carbon reduction potential on behalf of the whole United Kingdom, not just as related to Welsh consumption of electricity and other forms of energy.
2. Forward thinking sovereign nations of compatible size and circumstances to Wales, such as Denmark and Ireland, which fully budget imports and exports and operate stand-alone as regards their balance of payments, are accelerating to maximum the exploitation of all renewable resources in order to maximise energy exports and therefore foreign trade earnings.
3. Welsh renewable energy resources represent huge business & employment potential.
4. In the post-Brexit free trade era, unencumbered exploitation of Welsh onshore renewable energy will be an essential diversification option, quite possibly their "sink or swim" decider, for Welsh farms and land-owning or property-owning businesses.

Item Two

Ref the section on **Energy**, statement on Page 2: "Hydrogen is a nascent but very promising technical solution to some of our decarbonisation challenges."

I object to this statement: the authors should not lump together blue hydrogen and green hydrogen. Blue hydrogen derived from natural gas is a highly problematic fuel, which can only be made in oil-refinery-scale processes, and it requires a huge increase in consumption of imported fossil fuel, with highly injurious consequences for Welsh and UK balance of payments. Meanwhile green hydrogen produced using green electricity is proving ever more the truly zero carbon fuel of choice for more and more applications; and, as with wind power and solar PV technology, the green hydrogen international research and development effort is making remarkable leaps in efficiency and cost reduction. Wales should leave both blue hydrogen and hydrogen produced using nuclear power well alone, as either of them could starve the only certain and safe medium to long term energy vector green hydrogen - and the renewable technologies behind it - of investment and subsidy.

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