

John Griffiths AC /AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-422
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/07205/12

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

8 November 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 10 October regarding the petition on Ministerial Planning Policy. Planning policy advice is contained in both Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Minerals Planning Policy Wales (MPPW), and together these provide the context for applications relating to onshore oil or gas development in Wales. National policy identifies the essential role that mineral planning authorities play in ensuring a proper balance between the prudent use of resources, amenity and the environment; it provides advice on how they should fulfil that role through respecting environmental limits, applying the precautionary principle, and using scientific knowledge to aid decision making.

As we made clear in our response published last month to the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee's report into Energy Policy and Planning, we are not convinced that the issues are sufficiently distinct to justify a new Technical Advice Note.

We consider that the precautionary approach advocated in national planning policy is sufficiently robust. However we will continue to work closely with the UK Government and the respective agencies to develop our understanding of the impacts of shale gas and will keep under review the appropriateness of the regulatory frameworks as this evidence comes forward.

*Yours,
John*

John Griffiths AC / AM
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Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: John.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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