

Julie James MS
Minister for Climate Change

5 October 2023

Dear Minister,

The Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee has recently received various correspondences in reference to the under-grounding of cables via cable-ploughing.

The Committee has agreed to seek clarification from you, in the first instance of the Welsh Government's position on this technology. In particular, we would be grateful if you could provide information on the following:

Research on technologies

Details of any research or studies undertaken by the Welsh Government regarding technologies available for less impactful energy infrastructure, particularly focusing on cable-ploughing.

Comparative costs

Your latest understanding of the comparative costs of technologies such as cable-ploughing, including costs incurred over the entire lifetime of a project, factoring in elements like maintenance costs, energy loss relating to overhead lines, and the additional wear and tear faced by pylons exposed to the elements.

Comparative Carbon Footprints

Data or research findings on the comparative carbon footprints between underground and overhead lines.

International Collaboration

Any discussions or correspondence regarding projects within the UK and internationally concerning undergrounding by cable ploughing.

This information will enable the Committee to consider its next steps concerning this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.