



## Senedd Cross Party Group on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

12.00-13.00, Monday 10 March 2025 – Virtual Meeting, Microsoft Teams

### Minutes

#### Members of the Senedd

Delyth Jewell MS

Billy Jones (on behalf of Luke Fletcher MS)

#### Attendees

|                    |                  |                     |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Angharad Davies    | James Robottom   | Rhun Dafydd         |
| Ben Lewis-Hayes    | Jennifer Pride   | Rob Elias           |
| Cathy Owens        | Jeremy Smith     | Robert Chapman      |
| Catron Ellis-Jones | Joshua Morris    | Sam Johnson         |
| Charles Williams   | Kevin Ashcroft   | Sam Smales          |
| Chris Botwood      | Leo Guy          | Sarah Edwards       |
| Chris Jackson      | Libby Davies     | Sarah Jones         |
| Craig Harrison     | Luke Walsh       | Simon Morgan        |
| Daniel Taylor      | Mark Dulling     | Susan Falch-Lovesey |
| David Hickling     | Martin Cole      | Tessa Blazey        |
| Elliot Smith       | Mason Steed      | Tim Mockridge       |
| Emily Makepeace    | Matthew Haughton | Trevor Hunter       |
| Ffion Davies       | Matthew Sutton   | Victoria Gee        |
| Ffion Wright       | Morgan Williams  | Zuzanna Komosinska  |
| Heledd Cressey     | Neil Lewis       |                     |
| Ifer Gwyn          | Peter Trott      |                     |
| Jack Pugsley       | Rachel Kennedy   |                     |

#### Agenda item 1: Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees and introduced the session.

#### Agenda item 1: James Robottom, Renewable UK

Head of Policy at RenewableUK, James Robottom introduced his role and work with RenewableUK Cymru. He outlined the impact of aviation and defence issues on the renewable energy industry. James highlighted his membership of the UK Government's Onshore Wind Industry Taskforce. He spoke about Wales' opportunity to develop onshore wind, with a large pipeline already in place, and suggested aviation and radar represent key barriers to deployment.



### Agenda item 3: Sam Johnson, RES

Sam Johnson, Senior Aviation Manager at RES, delivered a presentation outlining the issues regarding aviation and radar and their impact in Wales. She explained the implications for wind farms and how turbines have an impact on radar in practice. Sam explained some of the potential options for mitigation, and the progress that is being made in this area. She spoke about the key role of Cardiff Airport and the large number of projects and potential projects the airport could have an impact on. Sam highlighted the ongoing discussions taking place with developers, Welsh Government and NATS to progress the issue. Sam also explained the impact of Cleve Hill which, while located in England, impacts large areas of Wales. She called for developers to pay a fair and transparent amount for mitigation, for direct engagement with Cardiff Airport on the issue, and for Senedd Members and Welsh Government to use their influence to make progress with mitigation.

### Agenda item 4: Q&A

Delyth Jewell invited questions from attendees and chaired the subsequent Q&A.

*Q1: There is a lot of work ongoing to enable offshore wind to go ahead, including algorithms to "filter out" the effect of turbines. To what extent can these solutions apply to onshore? Also, given defence sensitivities are perhaps becoming more acute than ever, is there more money being pumped into this, including by the government and Ministry of Defence? Is this IP that UK can export to (friendly) nations?*

James highlighted that offshore trials are being heavily funded by OWIC, the UK Government and MoD. He noted that a lot of the relevant policy levers are controlled by UK Government departments and explained that the newly-formed Clean Power Unit is achieving more high-level communication with MoD.

Sam noted that the solutions are the same for offshore and onshore.

*Q2: What can the Senedd and/or Welsh Government actively do to help solve these issues?*

James suggested Welsh politicians should keep the pressure on UK Government to unlock the opportunity in Wales, highlighting the potential knock-on impact for skills and jobs.

*Q3: Would a Senedd research paper be useful?*

James agreed that a Senedd research paper would be useful to keep the issue on the agenda. He noted that Welsh Government is working on the issue and that, given Cardiff Airport is Welsh Government-owned, there seems to be achievable solutions.

*Q3: Could James give an update on the UK Onshore Wind Industry Taskforce?*

James noted that an onshore wind ban has been in place for a number of years and was only recently lifted, and that the onshore wind pipeline has stalled in Wales. He explained that the taskforce is looking at the opportunities for onshore wind, including in Wales, and exploring how to create a competitive UK energy market.

*Q4: Could James give his reflections on the UK Government announcements on grid infrastructure and potential bill discounts?*

James explained that the announcement could see bill discounts for those living near new grid infrastructure. He spoke about some of the challenges around community benefits, and the need for associated community engagement.

*Q5: The Welsh Government's report on renewable energy generation in Wales identified that no new on shore wind was commissioned in 2023. Do you anticipate that the radar issue will prevent future commissioning of onshore wind and Wales' ability to hit the Welsh Government's 2030 target?*



Sam highlighted that a whole pipeline of projects, upward of 3 GW, could be impacted if issues at Cardiff Airport and Clee Hill are not resolved.

*Q6: Could you talk about worst case timelines for getting the radar issue resolved and the impact on 2030 targets?*

Sam highlighted that mitigation technologies would take 18 months to get commissioned and installed, already likely to delay a number of projects due to become operational in 2026.

#### Agenda item 5: Close

The Chair offered closing remarks and confirmed that the next session will be in-person on Tuesday 10 June, at the Senedd, with more details to follow.

The Chair asked attendees to contact Cadno if they have any questions or queries about the Cross Party Group.