



Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/PO/447/2025

Andrew R T Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Senedd Cymru

16 September 2025

Dear Andrew,

I wrote to Minister Shanks, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on 2 September to provide my consent to the inclusion in the Statement of Strategic Priorities to Great British Energy matters which would be within the legislative competence of the Senedd. The Statement of Strategic Priorities has now been published and can be found [here](#).

Section 5 of the Great British Energy Act 2025 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Statement of Strategic Priorities (SSP) for Great British Energy (GBE). Section 5(6) requires the consent of Welsh Ministers to the inclusion in the SSP of anything which concerns a matter, provision about which would be within the legislative competence of Senedd, if contained in an Act of the Senedd. Minister Shanks wrote to me seeking Welsh Ministers' consent to the inclusion of the references to 'clean energy' in the SSP so far as they relate to carbon capture, usage and storage technologies.

Partnership working is essential to the success of GBE and it will be important for the UK Government to deliver on its commitment that GBE will work collaboratively and in partnership with devolved governments, local government and communities. I also welcome the commitment in the SSP that the work of GBE will add to our local and community energy successes which have been a keen focus of our work in Wales to date.

My letter to Minister Shanks highlighted my view that the basis on which Welsh Ministers would consent to the SSP would be much wider than that highlighted in his letter and that the Senedd's competence in matters touched on by the SSP go beyond merely those concerning carbon capture, usage and storage technologies.

I also stated the paragraph describing energy activity here in Wales was less detailed than I would like and I have asked for additional work to identify how GBE will work with us to support delivery of the strategic vision articulated in national, regional and local spatial plans in relation to our shared energy and climate ambitions.

The Governance section of the SSP does not refer to how GBE activities will be closely aligned with devolved activities, especially given the complex interface between GBE's remit and devolved areas in Wales. A high level SSP is not the place for this detail to be set out. However, I will require our officials to continue to work on this to set out a process that clarifies how GBE activities will be

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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.

complementary to Welsh policies and delivery processes and establish a dispute resolution process to our joint satisfaction.

GBE's role in our energy future is important for the whole of the UK and its success is something all Governments of the UK can contribute to. My officials are already working to share their experience of delivery expertise with GBE and I have expressed my desire that GBE will build on the positive collaboration to date to increase the scale and pace of work made necessary by the climate emergency and energy crisis.

That pace on this occasion meant the UK Government requested consideration of the SSP within very short timescales. I was disappointed there was insufficient time allowed to write to the Committee and invite your consideration in advance of my decision. Although I have given my consent to the SSP, I have asked for additional work on governance to provide clarity on how the policies and priorities of Wales will be incorporated into GBE's work going forward. With that in mind, I welcome any views you and the Committee may have on the SSP as published. My officials will also work with UK Government to ensure additional time is provided for the next iteration of the SSP to allow time to engage with Senedd Committees.

I will also be writing to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and will issue a Written Statement to inform Members of the Senedd.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio