

Rebecca Evans MS,  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning,  
Welsh Government

12 March 2026

Dear Rebecca,

### **Follow-up from general scrutiny session on 5 March 2026**

Thank you for attending the Committee's 5 March meeting for your final general scrutiny session of this Senedd term. The Committee agreed I should write to you with further questions which we did not have time to cover during our session, and to ask for further information on certain matters. These are set out below.

#### **Renewable energy**

---

You provided a brief update on progress towards the Welsh Government's renewable energy targets and stated that the updated energy generation report would be published shortly. We look forward to its publication.

You said that Planning and Environment Decisions Wales is making changes to the planning portal and will be publishing an interactive map of infrastructure applications to ensure greater transparency "in terms of where the cumulative impacts might lie". We asked whether it will include detail on the status of an application. You said "you would expect it to be updated" but that you would "check the level of detail". We look forward to receiving this information.

You said that you are "making really good progress on the renewable energy sector deal", and that the "plan is to publish it before the end of the month". We would be grateful for it to be shared with the Committee.

## Carbon capture and storage (CCS)

---

You said that you have been pressing the UK Government to undertake a consultation on non-pipeline transport for carbon capture, which will provide insight into the utilisation of carbon dioxide. We note that this consultation is currently live. As discussed, we would be grateful for further information on this work and for detail on the role of the Welsh Government.

You also said that you are developing a regulatory route-map, which you hope to publish at the end of the month, to inform guidance for developers and decision makers on your CCS policy. We would be grateful if this could be shared with the Committee.

## National Development Framework review and Strategic Development Plans

---

You said that a monitoring report to review progress against the key questions that were set out within 'Future Wales' (the National Development Framework) will be published before the end of the Senedd. We would be grateful if this could be shared with the Committee. However we are disappointed at the lack of progress in this area, particularly as you said the monitoring report will just "set out what the review would look like", instead of being an actual review of the National Development Framework.

Likewise, we are disappointed at the lack of progress towards preparing Strategic Development Plans (SDPs), and that it will take "another four years to get adopted strategic plans in place". It is concerning that there is not a single SDP in place, and that it has not been possible to develop them in parallel with Local Development Plans. You indicated that "there is an agreement that they're not planning to progress an SDP" in Mid Wales. We could be grateful if you could confirm whether this is the case and if so, whether this decision requires legislative changes.

We will be recommending that our successor committee prioritises robust scrutiny of progress in implementing the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and wider planning issues.

You also committed to writing to us to confirm any plans to review MTAN1. In doing so, we would be grateful if you confirm whether a working group has been established to undertake the review, and if so, set out the membership of the group and its terms of reference.

## Increasing capacity in the planning system

---

In terms of increasing capacity in the planning system, you said that you are "looking to see how local government can share resources, particularly those staff who have specialist skills, or where their skills are more sparsely needed across specific projects". You indicated that the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership may be leading on work "in terms of the apprenticeship levy" and that you could provide us with a note.

## Permitted development

---

We discussed your consultation on a number of changes to permitted development rights between April and July 2025. You confirmed that “the plan is to make changes, or to propose changes to the Senedd for air source heat pumps and temporary camping, and to do so before the end of this Senedd term”. We heard that permitted development rights for reverse vending machines and for off-street parking electric vehicle charging units “would be areas for a future Government, potentially, to take forward, because they did need more work”. It is disappointing that there has not been more progress on changes to permitted development rights given that they are long overdue. We will be recommending that our successor committee monitors progress in this area.

We would also be grateful if you could set out the reasons why changes on reverse vending machines and EV charging units are not being brought forward at this stage and for detail of the further work you suggest is needed.

## Opencast mining

---

We would be grateful if you could set out how the Welsh Government will deal with requests to call in applications during purdah.

We would also be grateful if you could provide us with membership details of the newly established Mining Legacy Working Group, including whether it includes civil society representatives.

## Hydrogen policy

---

You have stated that additional guidance on evidence requirements will be produced in relation to your Hydrogen policy. When do you expect to publish this?

Responses to your consultation on the policy questioned how the energy hierarchy in Planning Policy Wales applies to Hydrogen developments. You have committed to producing guidance on this, but why was it not included in the original policy and when do you expect to bring this forward?

## Nuclear energy

---

Is the Welsh Government contributing to the UK Government’s review of nuclear regulation? How do you plan to ensure that the voices of Welsh communities are heard in this process, such as those near Wylfa?

Do you anticipate that the decision to progress a new nuclear power station will result in new funding for infrastructure upgrades in north Wales?

Given your decision to end funding for Cwmni Eginio, what are the future prospects for re-development of the Trawsfynydd site? In your view, is it unlikely that there will be new nuclear projects deployed here in the future?

How will the Project ARTHUR medical radioisotope facility be developed, given a lack of new nuclear at Trawsfynydd?

I should be grateful to receive a response by 6 April 2026.

Yours sincerely,



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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.