

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00886/13

William Powell AM
Petitions Committee Chair
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

15th May 2013

Dear William Powell AM,

Thank you for your letter of 24 April with regard to a petition seeking financial assistance to support Powys County Council's representation at the co-joined public inquiry for five wind farms.

The five proposed wind farms in Powys, subject to the co-joined public inquiry, are all over 50MW and as such are not devolved to the Welsh Government; they are the responsibility of the UK Government. With such applications, it is the right of the local planning authority to object and trigger an independent public inquiry. Following Powys County Council's objections to these applications the UK Government called a co-joined public inquiry. The Welsh Government has no jurisdiction for these applications and is unable to intervene in this process. The funding of the co-joined public inquiry is a matter for Powys County Council and the UK Government to resolve.

I am however aware of the resource implications of strategic renewable energy applications located in the Strategic Search Areas and as such the Welsh Government provides financial support for local planning authorities who have to respond to such applications for which they receive no planning fee income. The Welsh Government also provides direct financial support to local planning authorities who need external technical assistance in order to help them determine applications involving innovative technologies with which officers may be less familiar. Powys County Council in particular has received £390,000 from the Welsh Government since 2008.

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

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