

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-533  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00428/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

7 April 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of the 17 March regarding the Petitions Committee's consideration of the petition from GALAR requesting legislation is passed to place various conditions on wind turbine planning applications.

The Welsh Government's ambition is to create a sustainable, low carbon economy for Wales. Our aim is to secure an appropriate mix of energy provision for Wales which maximises benefits to our economy and communities, whilst minimising potential environmental and social impacts.

I am of the firm opinion that the legislation proposed by the petition would be overly restrictive by placing conditions on all wind turbine proposals and would not be flexible enough to deal with the individual circumstances and site characteristics which present themselves with each planning application.

For example, I am of the opinion that it would be difficult to define what is meant by a commercial wind turbine; turbines over 47m may be suitable in some circumstances; and gaining the written consent of local residents would be difficult to administer and monitor and would significantly impact negatively on the development process.

The planning system as it currently stands is the most appropriate means by which wind turbine proposals are managed. Each planning application for wind turbines is considered on an individual basis by local planning authorities who are required to consult local residents on both the policies against which applications are determined as well as the planning applications themselves.

Local planning authorities can use planning conditions to mitigate against impacts which may arise from a proposal, if it has appropriate policies in place which are based upon evidence to justify such an approach.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected loops and curves.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
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