

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-533
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05404/14

William Powell AM
Petitions Committee Chair

Petition@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

13th November 2014

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter of 30 October regarding the petition from GALAR being considered by the Petitions Committee. I note that the issues raised in the latest correspondence from the petitioner appear to depart quite significantly from the original petition. I have however addressed the issues raised.

Item 1 relates to how the public are consulted and can comment on planning applications. The planning system provides the opportunity for members of the public to make representations on applications and their views should be taken into account in the decision making process. The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 sets out the publicity requirements to be undertaken by local planning authorities. As stated in my previous response to you on this issue, I do not believe that local referenda would be an appropriate way of consulting the public on planning applications.

Item 2 relates to the subsidy of energy development in Wales which, as indicated in the petitioner's letter, is the responsibility of the UK Government.

Item 2 and 5 refer to grid connection. National Grid administers the grid, in partnership with Distribution Network Operators on a UK wide basis, and answer to UK Ministers. The petitioner suggests the Petitions Committee takes advice from National Grid and I can confirm they are best placed to advise on how they manage grid capacity in line with DECC policy.

Items 3 and 4 relate to ensuring that a wind turbine which stops being operational, due to financial problems or damage, is removed. Local planning authorities can use planning conditions to require a development, including single wind turbines, which no longer produces electricity for a continuous period, for example 12 months, to be removed.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk
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I do not support the proposed changes to legislation put forward by GALAR and am of the view that those issues which are devolved are adequately addressed through the planning system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS', written in a cursive style.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
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Minister for Natural Resources