

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: JJ/PO/365/2023

Llŷr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

27th October 2023

Dear Llŷr,

Infrastructure (Wales) Bill

During the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee evidence session on 18 October, I agreed to write to the Committee to provide further information and clarification on how the proposed infrastructure consenting process will take account of the views of coastal communities on proposed developments in the marine area.

Section 33 of the Infrastructure (Wales) Bill sets out who is notified of application on land and in the Welsh marine area. Section 35 identifies how a planning authority is to respond to such a notification. Under this provision a planning authority must submit a local impact report where they are notified of an application for infrastructure consent within their area. However, where an authority is given notice of an application in the marine area, there is no duty to provide a local impact report, although they may submit one if they wish.

The reason why I have opted not to place a duty on planning authorities on submitting a local impact report for development in the marine area is that unlike development on land, there are no clear geographic boundaries for planning authorities in the offshore environment. This makes it difficult to justify making it a mandatory requirement for planning authorities to provide a local impact report, where development may have little to no impact on their area.

Furthermore, local impact reports are intended to be factual documents, which set out any relevant information which may have an impact on a proposed development. For example, this may include the planning history of the land, any local designations and any locally applicable planning policies. They are not designed as a specific means of collating representations and comments from local communities.

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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.

Development offshore will be subject to the same publicity and notification requirements as development of land, although the methods adopted will differ slightly. For example, it would not be possible to display a site notice offshore.

This will help ensure coastal communities will have the same opportunities to review and submit representations on a proposed development as any other stakeholders and local communities.

I am also committed to working closely with stakeholders in developing the specific requirements for how consultation must be carried out to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to engage in the process.

If you require any further clarification on this matter, I will be happy to write to the Committee again.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
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