

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

Dear Sir / Madam

**RE: WAG E&S Committee Inquiry**

I am writing to you to give my feedback on the Welsh Government's desired future 'energy mix' in Wales and the Welsh Government planning guidance as it relates to onshore wind energy and the impact on local communities and infrastructure.

It is my strong belief that TAN8 is out of date, it is incredible to think that a Welsh government would think that siting 606ft turbines in Mid-Wales could bring anything good to the area. What it will bring is the destruction of beautiful landscape, which people from all around the world appreciate, love and take time to visit and enjoy. Where is the consideration to the residents and the disruption it will bring on many levels. Will Wales be a place people will want to visit if the future laid out in TAN8 is realised ?

It is amazing to think that the Welsh government would want to cut down huge areas of forest to accommodate these turbines. Do you think elections would be won with campaigns which called for this ? – our elected leaders should be fighting to protect what we have and what makes Wales unique in the world. I cannot begin to imagine the wildlife that will be killed the eco systems destroyed I would be so ashamed if the powers which govern Wales let this happen when it is not required or necessary.

If the wind farms were erected then I can say from experiences on the Illinois / Indiana border in the USA that the wind turbines make noise which is so intrusive that a normal everyday life is impossible, the figures quoted for smaller turbines in TAN8 is 14 years old and is in no way relevant in any discussion in what is being proposed. The noise will be obtrusive to humans and wildlife there will be no peaceful Welsh countryside.

The Welsh government must realise that the proposals will make Mid Wales a poorer place, towns and villages will be seriously affected by wind farms. Communities will grow poorer no one will want to move in to the areas, the house prices will fall, home owners may face negative equity, day to day financial survival will become much harder in an area where earnings are already low.

Has the Welsh government considered what the transport of all the turbines and then the maintenance of all the turbines will entail ? How long do the Turbine blades last how often do they need replacing. The logistics and disruptions are not a short term exercise there are serious long term implications.

The road structures are not big or strong enough and neither should they be, Welsh roads and Welsh towns have evolved in the way we see them today, to undertake engineering transport on this scale for the installation and lifetime maintenance of the wind farms will cause massive damage to roads, buildings, disruptions, and delays. If Wales was a desolate land, a desert where no one lived then it would be acceptable to suggest such an undertaking but in Mid Wales a tourist attraction with quaint villages, rich history, narrow tight roads connecting the villages together it is not a decision that governments in other countries would make so I would hope that the Welsh Government would say that for this reason alone the wind farms are not practical for Mid Wales.

Pylons would be a blight on the landscapes for so many miles and affect so many people not only from a visual aspect which will be devastating to the beauty of Wales but also to the health of the residents of Mid-Wales and Shropshire. Electric is dangerous – very dangerous not only the obvious it can electrocute this is probably a low concern being that the pylons are so high off the ground, what is the most dangerous is what cannot be seen, the energy and magnetic fields which disrupt human functions increasing the likely-hood of leukemia and other cancers. It was said to me by Scottish power during the initial roadshow that the cable could be buried I was told that this would be 12 times more expensive than pylons, later I found out this fact was 3 -4 times more expensive. It is obvious that the power companies and national grid are trying to railroad decisions, maybe this is because they have already made deals and can not afford for the decision to be against a wind farms for Mid Wales. It is not acceptable to have hundreds of pylons cutting Mid Wales and Shropshire border in half

I am happy to speak with any one from the Environment and Sustainability Committee on my views I am a resident of Powys and own a property on one of the proposed pylon corridors.

Yours Sincerely



Jason Howard