



The Clerk  
Environment & Sustainability Committee  
Welsh Government  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF1NA

**By email only**

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011

Dear Sir

**Energy policy and Planning in Wales Consultation Document**

With reference to your letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 we have the following comments:

Based on our experience with the involvement of Welsh Government and planning applications for onshore wind, we would probably have a better chance of achieving planning consent via the UK Government.

We do not believe that the Welsh Government really supports the various forms of renewable energy.

There is little hope of achieving the targets unless there is a change in the support of renewable projects by Welsh Government. So far, we have not achieved any of the current targets and the situation is now worse.

The impact of consenting decisions not being in accordance with Welsh Government planning policy is that targets will not be met and Welsh companies will go out of business in the process.

There will always be an impact when onshore wind farms are built. If we want to achieve the targets then there will be an impact. People do not seem to make the linkage. Targets are set by Government, but no consideration is given to the actual practical installation of such schemes. All wind farms have to be connected to some form of electrical network. Larger wind farms obviously need a larger connection than a small development.

The role of different consenting agencies. There is no linkage between Welsh Government and LPA's. LPA's and in particular, planning committee members need educating about energy. Unfortunately decisions are usually made to preserve seats and not the environment.

TAN 8 etc. Millions of pounds have been spent on planning applications that are held up in the system, because nobody wants to make a decision. We have been involved in a project within an SSA that was finally refused by the court of appeal, because of one person's decision that was influenced by a handful of people that have no relations in the area.

Developers like us do not know where to turn. The best place is Scotland because the Government is prepared to support their own policies.

Transport issues are no more than a 'red herring'. Transport is an engineering issue normally. Engineering is simple logical process compared to dealing with planning issues.

We would be very pleased to give oral evidence if required. We have been in the industry for nearly 20 years. We have identified, developed, financed, built, operated and even de-commissioned wind farms in Wales Scotland and England.

We look forward to being involved with positive minded people so that we can make some real progress with the renewables industry in Wales.

Yours faithfully

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Huw Smallwood  
Managing Director