



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-648
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01880/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair – Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

26 June 2018

Dear David

Following my letter of 18 August 2017, I provide a further update on how the Welsh Government will approach the handling of existing oil and gas licenses and future policy.

The transfer of powers for onshore petroleum licencing from the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) to Welsh Ministers under the Wales Act 2017 will commence 1 October 2018. Officials are putting in place the necessary administrative arrangements to ensure Welsh Ministers will be able to exercise the licensing functions and appropriately discharge their new responsibilities as the licensing authority in Wales from October. Regulations will be laid this summer to allow Welsh Ministers to charge fees when discharging our duties on existing licenses.

With regards to future policy, the consultation on draft Planning Policy Wales version 10 (PPW10) has recently closed. The draft policy places petroleum at the bottom of the planning energy hierarchy and requires any petroleum development to demonstrate how it will contribute to our decarbonising goals. Consultation responses on the draft policy are currently being considered.

Furthermore, in 2017, Welsh Government commissioned a review into the potential impact of onshore petroleum extraction. The review examined evidence of the impact on the environment, climate change, health, transport, decommissioning and economy. The review builds on the on earlier Welsh Government studies which considered the scale of

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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.

potential gas resources and the potential economic impact of its extraction. The findings of the review will be published for consultation in July, along with a proposed future policy for petroleum extraction in Wales.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs