

NDF Team,
Planning Policy Branch,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

12 October 2019

Dear Sir,

NDF 2020-2040 proposals for land based wind and solar generation in Wales.

I have read the recently published proposals for renewable energy generation and whilst I agree with the need to progressively switch energy generation away from fossil fuel sources, I am disappointed and concerned to see that the report focuses all its attention on land based wind and solar generation in substantial areas of beautiful upland Wales.

I have lived and worked in Wales most of my adult life and have worked professionally in the sphere of environmental protection, as well as business, and I am convinced that the Welsh upland landscape is one of Wales's most amazing and treasured assets, both for those who live here and those who visit. The report glibly states that, in the large designated "priority" areas" landscape change must be accepted as an acceptable consequence of the proposals that are set out.

The report extends to many pages of information, but I was unable to find any thorough discussion of the feasibility of siting most of the wind generation turbines offshore where they would have so much less visual impact. As you know, elsewhere in the world, offshore is often the option that has been chosen.

It appears to me that your approach to this subject of wind and solar power generation is flawed. The options regarding the offshore and upland siting of turbines is a very important matter of principle and practise, and the factors for and against both alternatives should have been carefully investigated and set out in the report.

It seems that for unstated reasons, a political decision has been made to site the turbines on land, and the public are being expected to accept this decision as a fact, without being presented with the background reasoning behind the decision.

The outcome is a report which seemingly fails at the first hurdle, in its lack of the requisite thoroughness, and it is difficult to comprehend how this has been allowed to happen.

This isn't how a democracy should behave, and it reminds me of the recent scandal regarding the Llandegley windfarm approval. Firstly, a democratic planning process was followed which ended in an experienced planning inspector recommending, on appeal, that the application should be disallowed. Secondly, a far less technically knowledgeable minister (Ms. Griffiths) simply overturned the inspector's recommendation and said that she was not obliged to give her reasons for doing this. This isn't how a civilised democracy should behave.

It is difficult to believe that you have a genuine interest in public consultation regarding your proposals. "Going through the motions" springs to mind, and if you don't like what the process delivers, I expect you are likely to simply overrule the objectors, and even planning inspectors just as you did at Llandegley.

Yours Sincerely

Philip Parkinson

