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**By e-mail only**

## **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

### **National Development Framework 2020-2040 - Consultation Draft**

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a long and proud association with Wales as the home to a number of key Defence sites and training activities which are of critical importance to the defence of the United Kingdom. We remain committed to working closely with the Welsh Government and other relevant bodies to seek to achieve outcomes that protect our Defence interests whilst also supporting the aspirations and intentions of the Welsh Government.

In this context, the MOD has strong reservations to the draft National Development Framework (NDF) for Wales as currently drafted and, in particular, with regard to draft Policy 10 :Wind and Solar Energy in Priority Areas and several of our training and operational sites. Whilst MOD has no objection in principle to the emerging NDF, the draft document should do more to recognise the significance of Defence assets and training within Wales and include specific measures to protect them. To this end, MOD would strongly recommend the inclusion of a separate, stand-alone policy within the NDF to protect defence and security interests. This would highlight the critical importance of Defence to the security of the UK and ensure that it is properly recognised within the planning system and taken into account at the earliest possible opportunity.

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Furthermore, the MOD recognises the need for policies to facilitate the development of renewable energy and is not opposed to the aims of the policies proposed. The draft document recognises the need to take account of the effects of large-scale renewable energy development on social, economic and environmental receptors but the potential impacts on defence and aviation are not addressed. Consequently, there is a need for UK defence and aviation to be identified as issues that planning applications must address to demonstrate that they will not be adversely affected.

We would very much like to work with you in this matter and help to articulate – either in the Framework or other related material – the specific details of the Defence safeguards that we would wish to see reflected. To address our concerns, I would be very happy to come to Wales with my team to discuss these issues face to face. Please contact me on the above email address and we will make the appropriate arrangements.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

*S Aminossehe*

Sherin Aminosehe  
Director Infrastructure

Copied to:

Devolution Team

DIO Safeguarding Team

DIO Planning Team