



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Welsh Government
Consultation – summary of response

Onshore Petroleum Licensing Guidance

Consultation on technical guidance for holders of onshore petroleum
exploration and development licences

May 2025

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

Overview

This document summarises the responses to the recent consultation on draft technical guidance for petroleum licence holders and gives the Welsh Government's response to the consultation.

Action Required

This document is for information only.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Contact details

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Additional copies

This summary of response and copies of all the consultation documentation are published in electronic form only and can be accessed on the Welsh Government's website.

Link to the consultation documentation: [Onshore petroleum licensing guidance | GOV.WALES](#)

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Introduction

The Welsh Ministers are responsible for licensing the exploration and development of Wales's onshore petroleum resources. It is Welsh Government policy to not issue any new licences. However, the Welsh Ministers have a statutory duty to administer the petroleum licences that were issued by the UK Government before 1 October 2018 in accordance with the model clauses incorporated into the licence, applicable legislation and policy, and with the general principles of public law. The consultation sought views on draft non-statutory guidance that has been prepared to assist licensees in the management of existing licences.

Approach to the consultation

Scale of response

Since the guidance was technical in nature and with a relatively limited number of interested parties, it was not expected that a large scale of response would be received. All current onshore petroleum licence holders in Wales (five organisations) were invited to respond, as the guidance is primarily intended for their use.

There were a total of six responses to the consultation, of which two were full responses.

Types of responders

Of the two responders who provided their details, one was an environmental campaign organisation and one was a civic society. As far as can be identified, no petroleum licence holders responded.

Our approach

The consultation responses have been summarised in the sections following.

Consultation questions assessment

Question 1: Does the draft guidance provide useful information that would assist an existing petroleum licensee in managing their licence obligations?

Response	Number
Yes	2
Neutral	0
No comment	4
No	0

Question 2: What further information might assist an existing licensee in the management of a petroleum licence?

One respondent commented that the guidance should state that licences cannot move from the appraisal to the production stage.

Welsh Government response: whereas each application for consent will be considered on its individual merits, the general presumption is against fossil fuel extraction.

Question 3: We would like to know your views on the effects that the new regulations would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

One respondent commented that an increase in oil and gas extraction could be detrimental to the Welsh language due to non-Welsh speakers moving in.

Welsh Government response: potential impact on the Welsh language is a matter considered by planning authorities in their development plans. The licensing guidance is intended for existing licences and our policy is not to issue new licences. (Note that the reference to 'new regulations' in the question means the draft technical guidance, not regulations.)

Question 4: Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

One respondent commented that becoming self-sufficient in energy would be beneficial for the Welsh language.

One respondent commented that there are equal opportunities so no need to change.

Question 5: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

One respondent expressed support for the petroleum policy but also expressed concern in relation to the possibility of recovery of coal from coal tips.

Welsh Government response: this point is outside the scope of this consultation.

Question 6: Do you live in Wales?

Response	Number
Yes	2
No comment	4
No	0

Question 7: Do you have a business interest in Wales?

Response	Number
Yes	0
No comment	4
No	2

Question 8: Please provide the first part of your home postcode e.g. CF10

Postcode	Number
CH31	1
LL59	1
No response	4

Welsh Government response to the consultation

Based on the response received, with no significant disagreement with the draft guidelines, the guidelines will be published as final.