

Welsh Government Responses to FOI ATISN (15578) Questions 1 to 3

Question 1

Further to the documents you have provided in your initial response (Doc 3.2), can you please confirm the application has been accepted is for 200mtr High turbines, when Coriolis are publicising up to 250mtr? This is certainly grounds on which the proposal should be disregarded and rejected totally, as Coriolis are being completely misleading

Response

The Planning Inspectorate Wales (PINS) held initial discussions with the developer at an Inception meeting on Tuesday 8th December 2020 where they indicated that the estimated submission date for the application was approximately April / May 2022. Therefore, no such application for this proposed development has been submitted nor accepted.

Following the Inception meeting PINS had further correspondence with the developer regarding EIA scoping for the proposed development. In a letter from the developer dated 17/02/2021 it indicates that the project is for "Wind farm of up to 26 turbines (6.6MW per turbine) with a maximum height of 250m in height and 170m in rotor diameter, transformer housing, battery storage, permanent anemometry masts, access tracks, crane pads and borrow pits." The EIA Scoping Direction produced by PINS on 08/03/2021, also confirmed the proposed development envisaged to comprise, amongst other things "up to 26 turbines of up to 250m maximum tip height..." All of these documents are available on the DNS website: [Y Bryn Wind Farm – Developments of National Significance \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/y-bryn-wind-farm-developments-of-national-significance)

Please note that as of 01/10/2021 all functions of the Planning Inspectorate Wales were transferred to the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). Any queries regarding DNS cases can be sent to: PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales

Question 2

Who has the authority to give NRW permission to tender land for which they are the custodians? You claim that you have no information regarding this specific point, which is unacceptable given that SOMEONE has authority over such decisions

Response

Pursuant to an arrangement under section 83 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 concerning the Welsh Ministers and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), NRW must obtain the prior written approval of the Welsh Ministers for any disposal of the Welsh Ministers Woodland Estate or acquisition of land in each case with a value greater than £250,000 (or in the case of a lease a yearly rental income in excess of £250,000).

In addition, any proposal for a disposal of land for the construction of a windfarm and for novel or potentially controversial purposes (including without limitation for the purpose of large scale recreation development, mineral working, housing development, and telecommunication masts) requires the prior written approval of the Welsh Ministers. In the case of windfarms this approval is required prior to a planning application being made by the developer.

Question 3

In 2005, in accordance with TAN8 the proposed land for Y Bryn was deemed unsuitable, so WHY did Welsh Government scrap TAN8 in favour of policy 17 and 18 Future Wales 2040, which then quantified the land as Suitable? Do you have any records that specifies the reason why TAN8 was scrapped, and who made that decision, because SOMEONE made that decision

Response

Welsh Government commissioned Ove Arup and Partners Ltd. (Arup) to undertake an assessment of large scale (10MW+) on-shore wind and solar energy development constraints and opportunities in Wales. The objectives of the study were to identify the most appropriate locations for large on-shore wind and solar energy development in Wales to inform the preparation of an Energy Atlas and the National Development Framework (NDF) (now known as Future Wales: the National Plan 2040).

In April 2019, Welsh Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths declared a climate emergency for Wales. The May 2019 UK Committee on Climate Change report recommended a 95% reduction on Welsh 1990 emissions by 2050. In June 2019, the Minister for the Environment, Energy, and Rural Affairs, set out Welsh Government's ambition to bring forward a target for Wales to achieve net zero emissions no later than 2050. This followed previous ministerial announcements which set a 70% renewable electricity target for Wales by 2030, a commitment which is recognised in Planning Policy Wales, Edition 11 (February 2021)

As a result of the analysis and engagement carried out by Arup, the study identified 15 refined Priority Areas for Solar and Wind Energy. These are based on key areas of analysis, featuring environmental designations, heritage designations, high-level landscape assessment, and aviation constraints and represent the areas of greatest opportunity in Wales when these features are applied.

You can view the Arup report here: [Assessment of on-shore wind and solar energy potential in Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

Engagement and participation have been cornerstones of the plan-making process. We have undertaken direct engagement, formal consultation and sharing of ideas and draft work throughout the process.

The principles and standards of public and stakeholder involvement were established in a Statement of Public Participation (SPP) at the outset of the process. The SPP has been kept updated, to reflect any changes in the timetable, and where different engagement methods have been used.

We have maintained a calendar of events and meetings, as well as publishing a review of how engagement has strengthened the plan-making process

Future Wales has been a participatory plan-making process at every stage and the extensive involvement and engagement has been shaped by the Five Ways of Working and set out in the statement of public participation.

You can view the NDF consultation report here: [Draft National Development Framework | GOV.WALES](#) and you can view the Statement of Public Participation here: [Future Wales: the national plan 2040 | GOV.WALES](#)

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee undertook work on the NDF from an early stage with a view to influencing its content.. Members of the cross-party Committee were Janet Finch-Saunders MS, Jenny Rathbone MS, Joyce Watson MS, Llyr Gruffydd MS, Mike Hedges MS, Neil Hamilton MS.

Following the NDF public consultation exercise, the draft NDF was laid before the Senedd for a 60 day period for scrutiny. An explanation of the scrutiny process and examination by the Committee can be viewed here: [National Development Framework for Wales \(senedd.wales\)](#)

Future Wales is the product of an extensive programme of engagement

The Senedd scrutinised Future Wales across September and November 2020. Julie James MS considered the recommendations and resolutions of the Senedd and laid a statement of response in the Senedd on 24th February 2021. This Statement can be viewed here: [gen-ld14146-e.pdf \(senedd.wales\)](#)

The scrutiny process has helped improve the final version. The Senedd is supportive of Future Wales and Julie James MS made final changes to the plan in light of its comments. The Minister agreed with the majority of the recommendations made to her by the committees and have made changes to strengthen Future Wales in a range of areas including digital connectivity, Covid-19 response, Regional Economic Frameworks, town centres, green infrastructure, national parks and energy.

Following scrutiny of Future Wales during September to November 2020, Two Senedd committees undertook detailed scrutiny and their recommendations, along with the public consultation responses, have directly influenced Future Wales.

Future Wales was also subject to Cabinet sign off.

On 7 January 2021, the following Decision Report was published;

The Minister for Housing and Local Government has agreed the publication of Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 alongside Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 and the consequential revocation of Technical Advice Note 8: Planning for Renewable Energy on the same date both documents are published.

The Decision Report can be viewed here: [Decision reports 2021 | GOV.WALES](#).
This Decision Report is the record of the Minister's decision to revoke TAN 8 on the publication of Future Wales.