

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref AH/SMM
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00471/22

Altaf Hussain MS
MS for South Wales West

Altaf.Hussain@Senedd.Wales

25 March 2022

Dear Altaf,

Thank you for your letter of 28 February, regarding the collapse of the wind turbine at Pan Y Wal.

I do understand your constituents' concerns and the need for reassurance that onshore wind developments delivering lower cost electricity are safe. I would like to reassure you that incidents of this kind are extremely rare. 1200 turbines of this model have been in operation in the UK for over 10 years. This is the first failure of this particular turbine model and appears to be an isolated event.

We expect safety and monitoring of the conditions of turbines to be of the highest standards. Though we do not yet have the findings of the forensic inquiry launched by the turbine manufacturer, we have been assured the owner and the turbine manufacturer are committed to identifying the root cause of this collapse and ensuring it does not happen again.

Regulation of the maintenance and monitoring of wind turbines is a reserved matter. Investors and owners have a strong interest in ensuring the robustness of turbines, which need to withstand adverse weather and endure for 25 years. It is standard to have independent certification of all turbines on installation and a robust regime of inspections underpinned by contractual liability for failures. Organisations approved by the certifying authorities provide independent certification and inspection for governments, investors and owners.

British Standards (BS EN 61400) govern turbine design and are based on the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards. It includes specific essential design requirements to ensure the structure integrity of wind turbines. They provide an appropriate level of protection against damage from all hazards during the planned lifetime of the turbine.

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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.

I would encourage both the owner and manufacturer to publicly report on the outcome of the investigation and any action needed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

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