



Our Ref: AH/SMM

28 February 2022

Julie James MS
Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Dear Minister

I am sure you are aware of the concern within communities across Wales about the danger posed by wind turbines collapsing following such an incident at the Pant y Wal windfarm at Gilfach Goch recently.

There are already hundreds of turbines dotted across Wales and many of these are in my own South Wales West region. I have been asked by campaigners to find out who is responsible for ensuring that these structures – which are hundreds of feet in height - are safe. This would not just be for the sake of walkers and others who may pass nearby but also for the safety of the maintenance workers who have to climb up them to service and repair them.

A sudden collapse, as happened in Gilfach, could have catastrophic consequences. The turbine that failed was 300 feet high but plans are afoot to install turbines in a proposed new windfarm within my region which will be in excess of 700 feet high and people are naturally very worried.

Can you tell me which public body has the responsibility for ensuring the safety of these turbines and which body is empowered to carry out inspections to check on their condition – or is it all left to the individual windfarm owners to do so – a case of asking them to mark their own homework. Many of these turbines are getting older and may now be at risk of metal fatigue and stress so it is crucial that we have a clear idea of who is responsible for ensuring public safety and worker safety.

WELSH PARLIAMENT

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff
CF99 1SN

REGIONAL OFFICE

80 High Street, Gorseinon,
Swansea SA4 4BL

SENEDD CYMRU

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

SWYDDFA RANBARTHOL

80 Stryd Fawr, Gorseinon,
Abertawe SA4 4BL

t: 0300 200 7259

e: altaf.hussain@senedd.wales

 [altafhussainsww](https://twitter.com/altafhussainsww)



Ceidwadwyr
Cymreig





I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

ALTAF HUSSAIN MS
Shadow Minister for Equalities

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