

Date: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

From: [Official]

To: [Correspondent]

Subject: TO/JJ/00462/22 – Collapse of turbine at Gilfach

Dear [name],

Thank you for your email dated 16th February to Julie James MS, the Minister for Climate Change. I have been asked by the Minister for Climate Change to respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your concerns about the incident. Both on and offshore wind are key in delivering lower cost, low carbon electricity, and we need to make sure that this technology is safely delivered and maintained. The Minister expects all industries in Wales to adhere to the highest standards of safety as set out in relevant regulations and best practice guidance.

However, incidents of this kind are extremely rare. 1200 turbines of this model have been in operation in the UK for over 10 years. We understand this is the first failure and appears to be an isolated event.

Welsh Government have been in contact with the wind farm operator, Pennant Walters, to seek assurances that public safety is being prioritised, particularly in relation to maintenance and the condition of the turbines on site. Nordex special investigation teams are undertaking a forensic investigation into the incident, which is likely to take some weeks.

We understand the owner and the turbine manufacturer are committed to identifying the root cause of this collapse and ensuring it does not happen again. The Minister would encourage both the owner and manufacturer to publicly report on the outcome of the investigation and will consider whether further action is needed once this investigation is complete.

Kind regards,

**[official]**

Yr Is-adran Ynni | Energy Division

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Newid Hinsawdd, Ynni a Chynllunio | Climate Change, Energy and Planning Directorate

Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government