

13 July 2023

Dear

ATISN 18606 – One Planet Council review of One Planet Development policy

Thank you for your request which I received on 15 June 2023. You asked for:

All correspondence between the One Planet Council and Welsh Government, specifically relating to the "Review of One Planet Developments in Wales 2010 - 2021". The documentation should include a copy of the cover letter from the One Planet Council to Welsh Government enclosing a copy of their review findings.

Our response

1. In June 2021 the One Planet Council wrote to the Minister for Climate Change to say that they were intending to carry out a review of the Welsh Government's One Planet Development Policy. In this letter they asked for suggestions on what their review might helpfully look at. The Welsh Government's response listed a number of OPD topics that we thought would be useful in this respect. This correspondence is set out in Appendix 1 documents 1 and 2 (referenced TO/JJ/10394/21). No further input was provided.

2. In April 2022 the Minister for Climate Change received an invitation from the One Planet Council to attend the launch of their One Planet Development Review. The Minister did not attend the launch please see Appendix 1 documents 3, 4 and 5. An invitation was also sent to the Chief Planner, see documents 6 and 7. Neither the Chief Planning nor any Planning Department staff attended the launch.

3. We cannot find a record of having received a copy of the One Planet Council's OPD Review, however, a copy was downloaded from the One Planet Council's website.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

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.

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

Document 1

From: One Planet Council

Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 10:39 AM

To: Correspondence mail - JJ

Subject: Success of One Planet Developments in Wales

Dear Julie James,

Success of One Planet Developments in Wales

The One Planet Council is an independent voluntary body which works to promote and support One Planet Development, a planning policy of the Welsh Government. We write to offer our congratulations on your re-election to the Senedd and your new job as Minister for Climate Change, and to update you on our activities and progress.

We are pleased to see the creation of a climate change ministry putting the climate and ecological emergency at the forefront of Welsh policymaking, a move which continues Welsh leadership on climate and our responsibility to future generations. The One Planet Development (OPD) policy has been a small but important part of this leadership since its introduction with the publication of TAN6 in 2010 and the OPD Practice Guidance in 2012, and it has been making waves both within and beyond Wales. We at the One Planet Council have been supporting OPD practitioners, planning departments, other professionals, and potential applicants with training, advice, and assistance. Further afield, we have supported English council areas such as Cornwall and Dartmoor to adopt policies inspired by OPD, and we have also provided help to campaigners in Ireland and members of parliament from New Zealand who have heard of Wales' leadership and want to learn from our experience.

Though the policy is relatively new, some OPDs are now reaching the end of their 5-year "set up period" and we are starting to see strong positive evidence of their contributions to biodiversity, local economies and communities, and importantly the low ecological footprint that can be achieved through innovative low impact design, active travel, community engagement, and renewable energy. This year, therefore, we are conducting a review of OPD in Wales and the impact of this policy since its introduction. We will be highlighting success, identifying challenges, and making recommendations for the future development of the policy and its implementation going forward. We are presently structuring the review and could take on board suggestions if you or your officers have any specific areas of interest you feel we should address.

We wish you every success in your new role and look forward to your input as we conduct our review.

Cofion cynnes,



Chair, One Planet Council

Document 2



28/06/21

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 11 June, about the One Planet Council's proposed review of One Planet Development (OPD). This matter falls within the responsibilities of Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change. I have been asked to reply.

We appreciate you informing us of this review and welcome the opportunity to provide suggestions regarding its content, and to seeing any outcomes or recommendations emanating from the final report.

In respect of topics to cover, this very much depends on the scope of your study. It might be useful to see a proposed structure which we could then offer further suggestions for if necessary. Having said that, the following suggestions come to mind, development management data (granted, refused, appeals, determination period etc. The Welsh Government only collects data on applications granted and refused), opinions from those undertaking OPD projects and local planning authorities (LPAs) regarding the operation of the monitoring process and application of the toolkit, examples of ecological footprint figures being achieved by OPDs, and instances where OPD projects have failed or enforcement action has been taken by the LPA.

Yours sincerely



Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio | Planning Directorate

From: DS Minister for Climate Change
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 1:04 PM
To: info@oneplanetcouncil.org.uk
Cc: DS Minister for Climate Change
Subject: FW: Diary request: OPD Review launch event, Cardiff, September 2022

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Many thanks for the below email inviting Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change, to attend the launch event of your publication.

Currently the Minister for Climate Change is unable to commit to attending your event as we are awaiting details of other events, also to be held in September, to be finalised.

In this instance I believe the most appropriate thing to do would be for you to contact the Minister for Climate Change's office again once you have finalised the details of your event and we will then see if it can be accommodated around any existing commitments.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Ysgrifennydd Dyddiadur i Julie James AS | Diary Secretary to Julie James MS
Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd | Minister for Climate Change
Gwefan | Website: www.llyw.cymru | www.gov.wales

Document 4

From: DS Minister for Climate Change

Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:01 AM
To: One Planet Council
Cc: DS Minister for Climate Change
Subject: RE: FW: Diary request: OPD Review launch event, Cardiff, September 2022

Good morning [REDACTED],

Thank you for coming back to me, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Unfortunately, the Minister for Climate Change's diary is fully committed for both the week commencing 12th September and the following week.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Ysgrifennydd Dyddiadur i Julie James AS | Diary Secretary to Julie James MS
Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd | Minister for Climate Change
Gwefan | Website: www.llyw.cymru | www.gov.wales

From: One Planet Council
Sent: 15 June 2022 10:36
To: DS Minister for Climate Change
Subject: Re: FW: Diary request: OPD Review launch event, Cardiff, September 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

May I ask if you have any further steer on Julie James' diary for the weeks of 12th and 19th September? I understand if you don't want to commit to her attendance at the event at this stage, but we would like to arrange it for a day when there's at least a chance she will be available.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Document 5

From: One Planet Council

Sent: Monday, September 5, 2022 10:48 AM

To: [REDACTED] (CCRA - Planning) Chief Planner

Subject: Invitation: Launch event for Review of One Planet Development in Wales

Annwyl [REDACTED], Chief Planner

I would like to invite you personally to the launch of our Review of One Planet Development in Wales, on Tuesday 20th September (full details below). At this event, we will discuss the evidence about the success of the TAN6 One Planet Development policy, and summarise learning about the process which could help to improve the policy in future. I would be delighted if you, or an appropriate member of your team, could attend.

Cofion cynnes

[REDACTED]

Chair, One Planet Council

Document 6

From: One Planet Council

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:51 PM

To: [REDACTED] (CCRA - Planning) Chief Planner

Subject: Re: Invitation: Launch event for Review of One Planet Development in Wales

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to confirm that despite recent events we will still be going ahead with our launch event for the Review of One Planet Development in Wales at lunchtime on Tuesday 20th September and all details remain as in my previous email below. I haven't yet heard from you about your availability, but I very much hope you will be able to join us.

Cofion cynnes

[REDACTED]

Chair, One Planet Council