

ATISN 20310 – Wind Energy Public Consultation

Thank you for your request which was received on 11th March 2024. You asked for:

Full details of the public consultation process undertaken by Welsh Government - and your environmental consultants Arup - regarding proposed developments within the 10 pre-assessed areas in Wales. Including:

- 1) the community and town councils consulted,
- 2) the location and dates of public meetings arranged to explain proposals to the public,
- 3) the notices published in local newspapers to inform the public of the meetings,
- 4) and what records of the public meetings are held by Welsh Government.

Our response

Our response to the information you requested is: -

In relation to research conducted by Arup to inform the development of renewable energy policy and Pre-Assessed Areas in Future Wales.

1) One Voice Wales (see note of information below) was invited to an Arup workshop at Park Plaza Cardiff on 12th December 2018 to gather views about potential approaches to research. Outcomes from the workshops are integrated into Arup's '*Assessment of onshore wind and solar energy potential in Wales*' Phase 1 report.

2) NDF Engagement Plan (see note of information below)

[national-development-framework-engagement-plan_1.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

3) No information held (see note of information below)

4) No information held (see note of information below)

Note of information

The Arup research, '*Assessment of onshore wind and solar energy potential in Wales*', was a technical report to provide evidence to help inform the subsequent development of Future Wales renewable energy policy. Arup consulted specific stakeholders including those with specialist knowledge to support this research. Outcomes of stakeholder engagement are integrated into the [Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports](#), which are publicly available on the Welsh Government website.

The research did not prepare policy or identify any specific renewable energy developments, it did put forward possible policy options and conducted a constraints exercise and landscape evaluation aimed at identifying areas that may be suitable for wind and solar energy development in Wales. The assessment methodology is set out in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports.

Wider engagement and consultation with the public and other interested parties, including town and community councils, took place as policies (on all planning topics) were being developed by the Welsh Government during the preparation of the NDF/Future Wales. The development of Future Wales policies 17 and 18, which provide a policy framework to

assess large scale renewable energy proposals, were part of the extensive overall consultation and engagement process.

Individual responses to the Draft National Development Framework (2019), including Town and Community Councils comments about renewable energy and priority area policies (prior to them becoming Pre-Assessed Areas), can be viewed at the link below.

One Voice Wales represents all Town and Community Councils across Wales. They provided the Welsh Government with contact details to receive newsletters about the NDF/Future Wales's progress. One Voice Wales had responsibility for disseminating the newsletters to members. Approximately 17 newsletters about Future Wales progress were sent out between 2017 and February 2021 (when Future Wales was published). National Development Framework for Wales - Newsletter 007 - September 2018 notified newsletter subscribers that Arup had been commissioned to undertake research into onshore wind and solar energy.

The Future Wales engagement and consultation processes and events are publicly available on the Welsh Government's Future Wales web pages (under Engagement) and on our Consultation web pages. The 'Consultation Report - Draft National Development Framework (September 2020)' includes summaries of consultation comments on Priority Areas/Pre-Assessed Areas. Please see the following links:

Future Wales web site

<https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040>

NDF Statement of Public Participation

[national-development-framework-statement-of-public-participation.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

Summary of Public Engagement

[Planning Policy Wales - Edition 10 \(gov.wales\)](#)

NDF/Future Wales Consultations

Proposals relating to the Statement of Public Participation for the National Development Framework

<https://www.gov.wales/proposals-relating-statement-public-participation-national-development-framework>

Integrated sustainability appraisal scoping report for the National Development Framework

<https://www.gov.wales/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-scoping-report-national-development-framework>

National Development Framework: Issues, options and preferred option

<https://www.gov.wales/national-development-framework-issues-options-and-preferred-option>

Call for Evidence and Projects National Development Framework (2017)

<https://www.gov.wales/national-development-framework-wales>

Draft National Development Framework (2019)

<https://www.gov.wales/draft-national-development-framework>

Consultation Report - Draft National Development Framework (September 2020). Includes summaries of consultation comments on Priority Areas/Pre-Assessed Areas.

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-09/draft-national-development-framework-consultation-report.pdf>

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: Freedomofinformation@gov.wales

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