

24/09/2024

Dear

ATISN 20904 – Renewable Energy Projects

Thank you for your request which I received on 04 September 2024. You asked for:

Information - from Welsh Government records - with details on how project decisions are to be independently and objectively made, given that Welsh Government Ministers [Cabinet Secretaries] are both project landowner and project decision-maker.

Our response

The information we hold that is captured by your request is as follows:

Powers over consenting all onshore wind projects (bigger than 10 MW) are with Welsh Ministers.

We're very clear that there needs to be clear separation between Ministers that are responsible for supporting projects and Ministers considering planning applications for the project. Each project will be assessed against the policies in place, to the same high standards.

To ensure project decisions are made objectively, Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru established an independent board in May 2024. The board is Chaired by Llyr Roberts and is made up of four additional Non Executive Directors and one Welsh Government observer (without voting rights). The role of the Board is to be responsible for the strategic management of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru and provide independent advice to Welsh Ministers on the company and its portfolio of projects.

It is important to ensure independent and objective decisions are made from a planning perspective. There will be clear separation between Ministers that are responsible for supporting Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru projects and Ministers considering planning applications for the project. Each project will be assessed against the policies in place, to the same high standards. This process will be set out in a desk instruction in the partnership team responsible for Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru. This has not yet been drafted as we do not expect planning applications to be submitted for some time.

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

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