

Dear

ATISN 23150 – Future Wales and Policy 18 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

Thank you for your request which was received on 4th December 2024. You asked for:

1. The quantitative (actual measures to determine whether the above policy statements have been met or not, e.g. noise measurements in dB), for dwelling and communities. In essence, what actual measures as opposed to judgements will be used to assess if the criteria have been met when considering planning applications and subsequent operation.
2. Documentation that states the quantitative measures for households and communities that underpins policy 18 for build phase and operational phase of:
 1. Noise Pollution
 2. Light Pollution
 3. Electromagnetic disturbance
 4. Visual impact
 5. Shadow flicker
 6. Air quality

Our response

Our response to the information you requested is: -

1. Future Wales does not define the term unacceptable impact or specify particular methodological approaches to the assessment of the criteria listed in policy 18. Whether an impact is unacceptable or not will be determined by the decision maker based on the submitted evidence. Each planning application is assessed on its individual merits as the individual circumstances of proposals can vary considerably.

Whilst Future Wales does not specify actual measures or methodologies there are certain methodologies which are considered industry standards, best practice, or commonly used to establish an evidence base for large scale renewable energy projects, and some of these are listed below in response to part two of your question. Many of the criteria listed in Policy 18 will be assessed through the Environmental Impact Assessment which is required to accompany all Developments of National Significance (DNS). Please also see note of information below for links to examples of wind farm evidence submitted to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) including the Inspector Reports assessing those proposals.

Policy 18 of Future Wales forms part of the development plan against which proposals for DNS renewable and low carbon energy projects are assessed. Proposals may also be assessed against other material planning considerations such as Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Notes.

2. The methodologies below are examples of models which may be used for assessing/ considering potential impacts of DNS, some, such as ETSU R97, are considered an industry standard. These and other methodologies may be used by developers to provide supporting evidence for their scheme and to address the requirements set by policy and

those processing and assessing applications. References to some of these methodologies can be seen in the wind farm examples set out in the note of information below:

- **Noise** - [ETSU R97 The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms](#) (1996) and [A Good Practice Guide to the Application Of Etsu-R-97 for The Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise](#) (Institute of Acoustics, 2013).
- **Light** - [Guidance Note 1 for the reduction of obtrusive light \(2021\)](#) The Institution of Lighting Professionals. Also, Civil Aviation Authority and Department of Defence guidelines on aircraft safety.
- **Visual Impact** - [Landscape Institute's](#) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) 2013. Application of the guidance can be viewed in DNS submissions on the PEDW website. The 2013 document is available to purchase through the Landscape Institutes web site or publisher. Also, [Natural Resource Wales LANDMAP](#) data provides developers with existing information and a methodological approach to understand the landscape context in relation to potential impacts.
- **Shadow Flicker** - [Update to Shadow Flicker Evidence Base \(2011\)](#), UK Government web site.
- **Air Quality** - Typically considered within the Environmental Impact Assessment. May include comparison assessment (e.g. Carbon Balance Assessment) between increase in emissions primarily experienced during the construction and decommissioning phase and reduction in emissions following displacement of fossil fuel generated electricity during operation phase. Guides for considering air quality in the development process have been produced by Environmental Policy Implementation Community (EPIC) (formerly Environmental Protection UK) and the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM), for example, [Integrating Action on Air Quality & Climate Change - A Guide for Local Authorities](#) (EPIC 2024), [Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality](#) (IAQM, 2017), [A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites](#) (IAQM, 2020) and [Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction](#) (IAQM, 2024).

Note of information

You can view examples of windfarm projects approved or in the assessment phase by visiting the PEDW [Planning Casework](#) web page.

From the Planning Casework page you can view all DNS applications or you can use the search field. To use the search field type in the DNS number e.g. 3272053, submit search. Click on the DNS link and scroll down to Documents. You can use the filter to find, for example, the Final Decision/Report or Environmental Impact Statement documents, and if you investigate/search these documents you will find information on the assessments and methodologies used to assess certain potential impacts (such as those listed in your question 2) and the outcomes of those assessments as considered by the Planning Inspector and Cabinet Secretary. For example:

- DNS/3272053 - Twyn Hywel Wind Farm - Approved
- DNS/3239181 – Manmoel Wind - Approved
- DNS/3244499 – Garn Fach Wind Farm - Approved
- DNS/3261355 – Rhoscrowther Wind Farm - Refused

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