

06/08/2025

Dear

**ATISN 24859**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. You asked for information we hold regarding:

1. Low Frequency Amplitude Modulated Noise and Infrasound
2. Blade Erosion and Service Debris
3. Associated Leachates and Toxins
4. Disposal of Out of Service Wind Turbine Blades
5. Material Safety Data Sheets for Blades

This includes risk assessments and environmental monitoring.

### **Our response**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government. Safety standards for wind turbines are a non-devolved matter in Wales and are the responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). I do hope, however, that the following is useful context information.

Large scale wind proposals are normally accompanied by an Environmental Statement, Human Health, the Risk of Major Accidents and Disasters, and Decommissioning, are all considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process that will help to inform the final planning decision. Any such data relating to individual examinations is published to the relevant page on the planning casework portal [Planning Casework](#). We don't hold any non-case specific data of that kind.

Welsh Government policy in relation to wind turbine noise assessment, set out in sections 5.3 and 10.2 of the [Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales 2023 to 2028](#), is informed by the findings of the UK Government's 2023 [review of noise guidance for onshore wind turbines](#), taking into account consultation responses to the draft Plan (see pages 39-40 of [the summary of consultation responses](#)). Further to the Plan's adoption, Welsh Government officials have attended a series of UK Government-led workshops which have resulted in the proposed updates to the current wind turbine noise assessment method, which are out for UK-wide [public consultation](#) until 29 August. The UK Government will consider any outcomes from this process as they arise.

Once a planning application is granted local authorities have a duty to discharge planning conditions attached to it. If these planning conditions are not met, the authority can consider whether enforcement action, through the issue of a Planning Enforcement Notice, is appropriate. The local authority Environmental Health

Department can also investigate incidents of statutory noise nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and serve an abatement notice to stop or reduce noise impacting on affected individuals or communities.

If out of service wind turbine blades cannot be recycled, then they will need to be disposed of in a waste disposal facility (landfill) with an environmental permit that protects human health and the environment. Compliance with the permit conditions is enforced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

If wind turbine recycling facilities are developed, they will also need to comply with the relevant environmental permit.

### **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](mailto: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