

21 September 2026

Annwyl/Dear

Thank you for your request which I received on 24 August 2026. You asked for the following information:

- a list of the specific planning policies, guidance documents, standards, and assessment criteria that a PEDW-appointed Planning Inspector would use when evaluating the validity of a wind turbine energy development planning application; and
- clarification on how an Inspector would assess an application of the scale and nature of the Rhiwlas Energy Park (CAS-01928-W3M9S8) proposal, and which policy and regulatory benchmarks would be applied during that assessment.

Our response

PEDW does not hold a separate, unpublished set of planning policies, regulatory benchmarks or assessment criteria specifically for the assessment of the Rhiwlas Energy Park proposal. The planning policies, guidance and statutory framework which may be relevant to the Inspector's consideration of the application are publicly available.

These include Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and its associated national planning policy and guidance, together with relevant legislation, Development of National Significance (DNS) procedural requirements and applicable local planning policy.

PPW and associated national planning policy and guidance can be found here: [Planning Policy Wales](#). The published DNS procedural guidance, including details of the relevant legislative framework, is available on the Welsh Government [website](#). The application documents, representations and other published material, relating specifically to Rhiwlas Energy Park (CAS-01928-W3M9S8) can be found on PEDW's [Casework Portal](#).

It is not possible for PEDW to provide a definitive statement in advance, as to how an Inspector will assess the planning merits of the proposal. The Inspector will undertake their assessment independently, having regard to the application material, representations and evidence before them, including the relevant statutory and planning policy framework.

To provide further information about the approach taken by Inspectors when considering cases, I have attached the 'Approach to Decision Making' and 'Developments of National Significance' chapters of the Inspectors' Training Manual.

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 e-mail: 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

Website: www.ico.org.uk

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

Yours sincerely