



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**ATISN 15548**

Dear

**ATISN 15548 – re One Voice Wales, and Future Wales Priority Areas 1 & 8**

Thank you for your request which I received on 27 September 2021. You asked for:

1. Documentation, copy emails, from One Voice confirming when they sent the 8 newsletters regarding the proposed assessment stages/updates for NDF Wales 2040, now Future Wales 2040, to the 626 Town & Community Councils across Wales?
2. The reasons why, & objections from whom, the two priority areas 1 & 8, for wind development were removed from Anglesey & near, just north of, Brecon Beacons please?

**Our response**

The information you requested is enclosed.

**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,

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Parc Cathays • Cathays Park  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

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

## **Welsh Government Responses to Questions 1 and 2**

**Q1. Would you have the documentation, copy emails, from One Voice confirming when they sent the 8 newsletters regarding the proposed assessment stages/updates for NDF Wales 2040, now Future Wales 2040 Plan, to the 626 Town & Community Councils across Wales please?(see page 7 attached NDF summary + screenshots).**

We do not hold the exact information requested. We do have records of when newsletter emails were sent to One Voice Wales and subsequently opened by either One Voice Wales or one of their members (see Table 1). All 17 newsletters are recorded as being delivered to One Voice Wales from the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government did not receive any emails from One Voice Wales telling us what actions they have taken to disseminate the Newsletter. You will need to contact One Voice Wales about how and who they forwarded the newsletter emails on to, or whether they use other means of dissemination to their members.

**Table 1. Planning Division Newsletters 2017-2021 showing numbers of times emails were opened by One Voice Wales or those members the email was subsequently passed on to. The brackets indicate the number of times links in the email were clicked.**

	Date	Opens (clicks) - English	Opens (clicks) - Welsh
Newsletter 1	28/04/17	1242(128)	339 (13)
Newsletter 2	06/06/17	1411 (63)	319 (8)
Newsletter 3	29/08/17	588 (66)	601 (6)
Newsletter 4	19/04/18	1	0
Newsletter 5	30/04/18	1	1
Newsletter 6	26/06/18	0	0
Newsletter 7	18/09/19	0	0
Newsletter 8	07/08/19	0	0
Newsletter 9	17/10/19	0	1
Newsletter 10	07/01/20	0	1
Newsletter 11	19/02/20	0	1 (1)
Newsletter 12	16/07/20	0	0
Newsletter 13	04/09/20	0	0
Newsletter 14	21/09/20	0	0
Newsletter 15	08/12/20	2639 (171)	505 (11)
Newsletter 16	09/02/21	3158 (123)	698 (17)
Newsletter 17	24/02/21	0	0

**Q2. Also the reasons why, & objections from whom, the two priority areas 1 & 8, for wind development were removed from Anglesey & near, just north of, Brecon Beacons please? (see page 8 of attached Report).**

Future Wales' consultation report and consultation responses are publicly available at <https://gov.wales/draft-national-development-framework> .

Removal of renewable energy Priority Areas 1 and 8 from the NDF (Future Wales) was a result of consultation and discussion with the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence

has operational areas across Wales, and the Welsh Government took the decision to remove those Priority Areas where the Ministry of Defence were concerned about potential impacts on their activities.

On the Future Wales consultation page (see web link above), under responses by 'Public Bodies', please see the letter from the Ministry of Defence.

Following the consultation process Welsh Government met with the Ministry of Defence for more detailed talks, the minutes of that meeting are attached at Appendix 1.

See also section 4.6.37 of the Consultation Report which states:

4.6.37 The Ministry of Defence (MOD) have raised concerns regarding the protection of their estate and strategic training areas. The areas have therefore been refined, in consultation with the MOD, to address these concerns. A revised map will be published in the NDF [Future Wales].

In addition to the removal of Priority Areas 1 and 8 the [Schedule of Changes to the draft National Development Framework](#) sets out the other changes that were made to the National Development Framework [Future Wales] for reasons of national defence prior to publication, including changes to renewable energy policies 17 and 18. Changes included insertion of criteria 7 of Policy 18, which refers to impacts on the operations of defence facilities and operations (including aviation and radar) or the Mid Wales Low Flying Tactical Training Area (TTA-7T).

## Appendix 1

**Meeting between Welsh Government Planning Directorate and Ministry of Defence Finance and Military Capability – Infrastructure – National Development Framework Renewable Energy Policies**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – 2pm**

## Teleconference

### Notes

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Jonathan Fudge	Welsh Government
Stuart Ingram	Welsh Government
Max Hampton	Welsh Government
Jon Wilson	Ministry of Defence
Julia Powell	Ministry of Defence
Matthew Ellis	Ministry of Defence
Clive Thomas	Ministry of Defence

#### 2. Progress on National Development Framework to date

JF updated the meeting on the role and purpose of the NDF. It will be an all-Wales strategic plan. Development plan status. Top of the hierarchy with SDPs and LDPs underneath. Lower tier plans will need to be conformity with NDF. 20 year plan. Will be reviewed every 5 years.

Current draft we consulted on last summer reflect the priorities of the current Government plus set in the context of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. A sister document to Planning Policy Wales.

Issue of decarbonisation and renewable energy generation a core issue for the NDF. Climate change emergency declared by WG. All parts of WG are expected to demonstrate how they are contributing to this.

Now considering responses to the draft NDF consultation. By March policies will be amended and submitted to Minister for approval. Then submitted to National Assembly for Wales for scrutiny. 60 days of scrutiny. Final document published September / October this year.

JP questioned NDF as a whole and the MOD assets and their importance to Wales. JF stated that reference to the importance of military assets would be included in the NDF and draft text would be circulated for review.

#### 3. Update on Renewable Energy policies and evidence base

SI explained that the renewable energy policies in the NDF were developed as a replacement to the existing Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) in TAN8.

Arup had been commissioned to undertake a mapping exercise to calculate suitable areas for large scale wind and solar developments across Wales. This was a two stage exercise whereby constraints were mapped and then refined with specific reference to landscape sensitivity.

The draft NDF contained policies on renewable energy. National Parks and AONBs were excluded from development. The identified 'Priority Areas' had an in-built acceptance of landscape change and less constraints. The rest of Wales was open to applications but had no in-built acceptance of change.

Following on from the MODs response to the draft NDF, WG wished to discuss the status of the different MOD assets in Wales and their impact on the Priority Area boundaries.

#### **4. Discussion regarding MOD sites and status of NDF Priority Areas / Pre Assessed Areas**

##### **Aberporth**

Aberporth has statutory safeguarding zones. No development should impede radar operations at specific heights. In addition, developments should not interfere with the effectiveness of systems. Proposals would need to be micro sited accordingly. There should not be an indication that these areas have less constraint in others. To have them in the NDF would be potentially be misleading to the industry.

##### **Sennybridge**

2nd most important training area across the UK. Lots of activity going on Working with Powys CC who are looking at a potential 10km zone around the area in local policy.

It is critical that the presence of this unique Defence asset within this Priority Area is taken into account. Detailed concerns have been expressed by the day to day military users of the Epynt / Sennybridge training area regarding the proposal for a presumption in favour of development for wind and solar in an area which is critical to training military personnel and as such maintaining the United Kingdom's overall defence capability.

##### **Cawdor Barracks**

Small site which houses a secondary radar / beacon. Scheduled to close in 2027. Within zone 12. Height restrictions will mean that developers may avoid.

##### **Pembrey Sands RAF**

Weapons range - outside of a wind priority area. Similar situation to Sennybridge in that developments should not impede the operations of the site.

##### **St Athan - Vale of Glamorgan**

Safeguarding map. Similar to Cawdor Barracks status. Small safeguarding area once MOD transfer complete with retention of a small directional beacon for aircraft.

##### **RAF Valley - Anglesey**

##### **RAF Mona - Anglesey**

15km protected boundary around the airfields. Rarely get developers trying to build schemes near to the airfields due to operational restrictions. RAF Valley also has a radar with additional safeguards. Development in the vicinity would be of a major concern. Secondary radar at RAF Mona. Need to keep out of a 10km vicinity of the radar due to interference.

When you add them all together it would be difficult for a developer to operate a scheme in these areas.

##### **Low Flying Tactical Training Area**

TTA is elongated for low flying. Inter-terrain flying. Limited flying time space even though area is extensive. Development around the edges would not be too much of an issue, but the cumulative impact of developments could severely restrict the use of the area for military use. Only 1 of 3 areas in the UK.

Very concerned that this is a very important resource and a major concern if they were to remain.

JF suggested a possible policy wording to identify this constraint to alleviate damage. These will be circulated for review.

## **5. Next Steps**

JF said we would go away and look at sites based on MOD comments. We will overlay the other constraints and look at what other spatial / policy changes need to be made. WG will share the emerging policy with MOD colleagues in due course.

## **6. AOB**

It was requested that any future queries relating to MODs assets be directed to Jon Wilson and that queries relating to changes in the NDF general policy statements be directed to Julia Powell.