



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06315/19

Section 40 (2)

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Your email of 24 June, addressed to Mark Drakeford AM, First Minister of Wales, regarding the Welsh National Marine Plan and Wales' declaration of a climate emergency, has been passed to me to reply as this issue falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

Later this year, we will be publishing the first Wales National Marine Plan, setting out the Welsh Government's policy for the next 20 years for the sustainable development of our seas. The Marine Plan will include provisions relating to both devolved and retained functions.

The Welsh National Marine Plan will identify the deployment of marine renewable technology as a strategic priority. Renewable energy remains part of our vision for a more sustainable future for Wales. To deliver secure and affordable low carbon energy, we need a mix of different technologies and sizes, from community scale to major projects and we will work with our stakeholders to find ways of ensuring the transition to low carbon energy happens in Wales.

Since last year's public consultation on the draft Welsh National Marine Plan, my officials have reviewed the plan to reflect our policy to avoid the continued extraction of fossil fuels in onshore and internal waters, where licensing is devolved to Welsh Government.

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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.

The licensing of offshore petroleum exploration and extraction is a retained function, with licensing and environmental regulation administered by the UK Oil and Gas and the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning respectively. As the licensing of offshore petroleum is not devolved, officials have worked with UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to ensure marine petroleum developments with land based elements must include consideration of Welsh planning policy and our petroleum extraction policy. The Marine Plan will also set out a suite of policies affording protection to marine ecosystems and Marine Protected Areas, inclusive of Special Areas of Conservation.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

**Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs**