

11 October 2022

Dear

ATISN 16678 Foel Trawsnant Windfarm

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 21 September 2022. You asked for:

1. What measures are being taken by Welsh Government to reduce the occurrence of a falling wind turbine?
2. How many times has a similar event to the falling wind turbine in Pant Y Wal happened to Nordex turbines from around the world in the last 10 years?
3. Have you checked Nordex's current financial position?
4. Does Welsh Government believe Nordex are suitable to carry on with their work in Wales?

Our response

1. What measures are being taken by Welsh Government to reduce the occurrence of a falling wind turbine?

As the UK Government retain powers to regulate on energy matters the Minister for Climate Change wrote to the UK Minister for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change following the incident in Pant Y Wal. The Minister for Climate Change requested that an independent investigation process is established into such catastrophic events and called for new process to require the publications of data on incidents of failure or damage. This is because there is currently no requirement for an independent inquiry into such an event, or that information on the number of such rare incidents is not published within the UK.

2. How many times has a similar event to the falling wind turbine in Pant Y Wal happened to Nordex turbines from around the world in the last 10 years?

Welsh Government does not hold this information. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) covers all recorded information held by a public

authority but does not require the authority to request new information that it does not hold to answer a request.

3. Have you checked Nordex's current financial position?

Welsh Government does not hold this information.

4. Does Welsh Government believe Nordex are suitable to carry on with their work in Wales?

In this case your question asks us for an opinion and not for recorded information. The FOIA covers all recorded information held by a public authority, but it does not require the authority to create new information to answer a request, where the information has not been recorded.

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

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