

Item 15

**From:** PS FirstMinister <PS.FirstMinister@gov.wales>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 10:20 AM  
**To:** Energy Policy Mailbox <EnergyPolicyMailbox@gov.wales>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (EET - Energy Directorate - Decarbonisation & Energy)  
[REDACTED]; PS FirstMinister <PS.FirstMinister@gov.wales>; [REDACTED] EET -  
Business and Regions - Business & Regions) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Conversation with the First Minister during Pembroke Dock Marine Launch

Bore da,

The FM met with [REDACTED] Renewable UK last week while attending the Pembroke Dock Marine Launch. [REDACTED] spoke with FM about a few issues, and FM asked her to submit more detail on these issues. Please see the email below [REDACTED]. Please can you submit a note on the issues raised below from a WG perspective, for the FM's consideration. Please also advise how you suggest the FM responds to the email below.

Please can we have a note by Tuesday of next week at the latest.

[REDACTED]

Diolch,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Ysgrifennydd Preifat i Brif Weinidog Cymru | Private Secretary to the First Minister of Wales**

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Hapus i gyfathrebu'n Saesneg neu yn y Gymraeg/Happy to communicate in English or Welsh

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 5:39 PM  
**To:** PS FirstMinister <PS.FirstMinister@gov.wales>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Conversation with the First Minister during Pembroke Dock Marine Launch

H [REDACTED]

Thanks for getting in touch. Apologies for the delay coming back to you, I was travelling and in meetings on Thursday and don't work Fridays. [REDACTED]

There were 3 key areas we discussed: Consenting, Peat and Grid.

1. **Consenting, Resourcing & 2. Peat** – the FM tasked me with sharing a wishlist for how we would like to see consenting and planning improved in Wales and Garn Fach is a key consenting example linked to this – which demonstrates how the process isn't currently working to deliver timely projects, the Welsh Government (WG) targets or wider decarbonisation efforts. It is specifically one of continued delayed decision-making undermining sector confidence in developing onshore wind in Wales. This is an EDF project that has been in planning since 2022 and is yet to receive a decision. It should have been concluded earlier in the year and has been pushed twice, now with a date of 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. (it is accompanied by two other projects Manmoel and Twyn Hywel who have been in the process for less time, but have also received suspension notifications).

The signal, continued uncertainty and financial implications that these delays send is not positive. Whilst WG has and continues to acknowledge the climate and nature emergencies, alongside the importance of Net Zero and Renewable Energy development, the action and delivery required to address these is somewhat lacking, especially when compared to the momentum gathering in England and the clear policy positions brought forward to support delivery in Scotland. A fundamental issue specifically linked to Garn Fach relates to the continuing **uncertainty around WG view on developing on peatland** as a result of changes to Planning Policy Wales Chapter 6. The hearings for another wind development project (Mynydd Forch Dwm) which were reliant on the Garn Fach decision are scheduled to go ahead (10<sup>th</sup> Sept) before the new decision date (27<sup>th</sup> Sept). The precedent and interpretation of Chapter 6 changes are key to delivering an effective application and hearing – yet in the absence of the Garn Fach decision will be required to go over the same issues, none the wiser as to how inspectors and ministers are interpreting and applying the policy and associated stepwise approach. With resources already constrained, this is not the best use of time and expertise.

This is also likely to be impacting other developments, who will be delaying submitting projects to be able to use the Garn Fach decision to inform their project designs and consent approach. This also has implications for WG's own projects coming forward through Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru. Accelerating the delivery of onshore projects in Wales will be vital to reach the government's 2035 targets, play a meaningful role in the UKG's Clean Power Mission and expedite our move away from fossil fuels – large-scale offshore projects will not be operational before this time.

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide further suggestions for a wishlist on consenting and resourcing and will do so ASAP, but in the meantime affording Garn Fach a decision in early September could provide a very positive signal of the FM's intent to bring projects forward to delivery and elevate Wales's attractiveness in the UK onshore wind development market. I also emphasised that there should be some recognition of the role that private investment from onshore wind developers can play (and has already played) in enhancing habitats such as peatland in Wales (Pen Y Cymoedd) – please see the attached briefing note to this effect.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch,  
Thanks again for reaching out.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RenewableUK Cymru  
[REDACTED]