Green GEN Cymru
Hodge House
Guildhall Place
Cardiff CF10 1DY

[redacted]

greengencymru.com

Re: Programme Review and Delivery of your Programme for Government

Sent via email: Correspondence.First.Minister@gov.wales

Cc: [redacted] Green GEN Cymru
Cc: [redacted] Green GEN Cymru

Dear Rhun,

Congratulations on your appointment as First Minister of Wales. We also extend our congratulations to the incoming Cabinet, including the new Minister for Enterprise, Connectivity, and Energy, Adam Price MS. We have also written directly to the new Cabinet Minister. This marks a pivotal moment for Wales, and a significant opportunity to set a clear and ambitious direction for the country's economy, infrastructure, and energy system over the coming decade.

The transition to a secure, affordable and domestically supplied energy system will be central to meeting Wales's climate ambitions, but it is also fundamental to the cost-of-living crisis, industrial strategy, job creation and long-term economic growth. With electricity demand set to rise sharply through the electrification of heat, transport and industry, the decisions taken now will determine whether Wales can meet its renewable electricity ambitions by 2035 while keeping costs down for consumers and businesses. Recent analysis highlights the scale of the challenge facing Wales's energy system. Wales has historically been a net exporter of electricity, with net exports exceeding 21 TWh in 2016. However, this position has steadily eroded, with exports falling to near zero by 2024 and Wales becoming a net importer of electricity for the first time in 2025.

At the same time, overall electricity generation in Wales has declined significantly, with output falling by almost 50% from its 2016 peak. This reflects the rapid closure of coal and nuclear capacity, which has not yet been matched by the pace of renewable deployment. As a result, gas now accounts for around 58% of electricity generation in Wales — a higher share than in any other UK nation — increasing exposure to volatile international energy markets and associated price shocks.

We welcome and share Plaid Cymru's ambition for Wales to lead the just green transition, strengthen energy security, and achieve net zero by 2040. The climate emergency, alongside commitments to ambitious targets, has been a key driver of Green GEN Cymru's (GGC) pace of development and strong focus on delivery.

However, Wales's electricity grid infrastructure is not currently fit for purpose. This is a longstanding and well-evidenced constraint, recognised by the Senedd's Climate Change and Rural Affairs Committee, the UK Parliament's Welsh Affairs Committee, and in Plaid Cymru's Economic Plan. It has constrained renewable deployment,

increased system costs, and limited economic opportunity across Wales for over a decade, particularly in Mid Wales.

GGC was established specifically to address this strategic bottleneck. Proudly based in Wales, with colleagues from every corner of the country, our projects are designed in Wales, for Wales, and are targeted at the weakest parts of the system to unlock low-cost renewable generation at scale. We are working closely with the National Energy System Operator and wider network stakeholders to ensure our proposals align with the long-term needs of the electricity system and support the timely delivery of generation required to meet 2035 targets.

With an incoming Plaid Cymru Government, GGC stands ready to work in partnership to help translate manifesto ambition into delivery on the ground — at pace, at scale, and in a way that delivers lasting economic and community benefit for Wales.

We also recognise that delivering the grid infrastructure Wales requires must go hand in hand with responding to legitimate concerns around landscape, visual impact and community acceptability. As our projects continue to develop, we are placing significant emphasis on identifying approaches that can both meet long-term system needs and better reflect the priorities articulated by Plaid Cymru in relation to infrastructure design, and retaining greater economic value within Wales.

Across our proposed routes, we are actively advancing innovative designs and technologies intended to maximise network capacity while reducing impacts, including modern conductor technologies, refined routing approaches, and construction methodologies designed to reduce land-take and environmental disruption. Alongside this, we are undertaking substantial work with our supply chain partners to maximise economic benefit for Wales through greater engagement with Welsh-based contractors, manufacturers and specialist suppliers, and by increasing the proportion of Welsh content within our infrastructure programmes wherever possible.

Some of our innovative design proposals have been influenced by electricity network approaches outside of the UK and they are the ones that we have yet to publicly announce. Given the importance of getting these considerations right, we would very much welcome the opportunity to meet as soon as possible to share the latest thinking, design approaches and evidence we are developing in this area. This would also provide an opportunity to discuss how our proposals can best align with the priorities and policy direction of the new government.

As part of our ongoing development work, we are actively assessing a range of engineering and infrastructure options intended to reduce visual impact and respond to community and policy considerations, while still maintaining the network capability required to unlock renewable energy at the scale Wales needs. We believe there is real value in engaging collaboratively at this stage to explore what is practically deliverable, how different approaches affect system and community outcomes, and where there may be opportunities to better align delivery, environmental considerations and public acceptability.

We have enclosed - alongside this letter - a separate note outlining how our projects and wider approach can support the delivery of your Programme for Government. It also draws on our analysis of electricity costs.

We look forward to working with you and your government in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Green GEN Cymru