



Eich cyf/Your ref NICW/25/EnergyUpdate
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/01200/25

Dr David Clubb

david.clubb@nationalinfrastructurecommission.wales

11 November 2025

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter highlighting several points regarding renewable energy in Wales. I remain very grateful for the work of the Commission, and I have provided a response to each of the recommendations you have suggested below. We remain committed to driving forward renewable energy projects in Wales that retain value and benefits to our economy, and I would wish to ensure you, the work on the Renewable Energy Sector Deal will pick up on such issues. Whilst I note your reference to Denmark, it is important also to note that making comparisons with other European countries can be quite difficult as the Contract for Difference regime is different, as well as the ownership of companies, but we do reach out to countries to see whether there are lessons to be learnt.

1. National vision and targets (capacity and ownership)

Wales is unique in the UK in having a clear spatial plan, including pre-assessed areas considered capable of accepting large scale development, and a presumption in favour of renewable development outside protected landscapes. Our long term and iterative programme of work on energy planning has developed an understanding within local authorities of the level of renewable generation needed to meet current and future needs in the area, which should feed through into local policy and decision making.

We did not set sectoral targets in our 2022 update as there are many factors that play into the deliverability of renewable generation. As co-commissioners of the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan we are working with UK Government and NESO to consider the potential pathways to meeting Britain's energy needs. We expect the SSEP to include details of generation potential across parts of Great Britain and the Welsh Government will consider whether there is a need to amend our policies and plans as the work on the SSEP concludes.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

2. Legislative tools for ownership and consent

The UK Government issued a consultation on community benefits back in May and the Welsh Government are having ongoing discussions following the publication of the [working paper](#), to have further clarity on what UKG is proposing in this area. As you set out in your letter, planning law and local ownership is a complex matter and we need to ensure we continue to create the right environment to bring investable projects to Wales. I appreciate your suggestion on a study to further explore this issue as any proposed reform of planning legislation will be a matter for the next Government following the elections in May.

3. Community benefit vs. community ownership

The need for both community benefit and ownership of projects is recognised by our policy. Our policy published in 2022, our championing of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru at the large scale and Ynni Cymru at the local scale, all demonstrate our ambition for full community or local ownership where possible. Developing our guidance on local and shared ownership and working with communities and public bodies to implement it, has given us a deep understanding of the many delivery challenges in achieving this ambition.

As part of the Sector Deal, we are considering the need to update our policy on local and community ownership and benefit, given the changes in UK policy since our pioneering publication, and the potentially significant rate of deployment of new energy generation over the next decade. It is imperative, if we are to retain support for the change, to have clear evidence of benefits being retained in Wales. We will consider the matters you have raised as part of this review. [Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru's](#) community survey work, Ti'n gyntaf, and the recent poll by [Cavendish Cymru](#) provide useful insights to the views of communities on renewable energy in Wales.

4. Built environment standards – solar PV and storage readiness

The building regulation Part L 2025 review has commenced and a consultation containing the full technical proposals was published earlier this year and closes in November. This consultation includes proposals for renewable energy generation in both new build dwellings and where significant extensions are proposed to existing dwellings (including proposed exemptions or alternative energy efficiency measures where applicable). Estimated timescales for implementation were also included. The web link to the consultation is here: [Building Regulations Part L 2025 Review](#). We will consider how best to take forward the policy aims following the outcome of the consultation.

5. Permitted development Planning

In respect of the amendments to permitted development rights for Air Source Heat Pumps, we have reviewed the evidence received to the consultation and I aim to move this work forward as soon as possible.

6. Planning capacity – pooled resource and digital enablement

In terms of planning capacity and resource we have already taken action to provide additional funding to planning and consenting bodies alongside our reforms to the processes including through the Infrastructure Wales Act. Looking forward, we commissioned RTPI Cymru to undertake comprehensive workforce planning research to develop a clear picture of capacity, resource and skills needs across the public planning sector, and to present findings and recommendations. My officials have just received that report and are considering its contents.

7. Sector Deal – ownership and supply chain

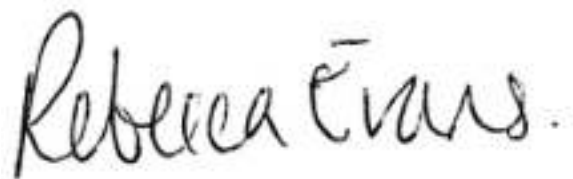
We are committed to working with industry to develop a renewable energy sector deal, with the aim being focused on removing barriers and working closely with industry on maximising the value of benefits retained in Wales. We held a conference in July to discuss the shape and potential content, which included stakeholders in the areas you mentioned on ownership, local supply chains and skills. This work has led to the creation of a Sector Deal Task and Finish Group which will meet shortly for the first time.

8. Crown Estate – revenues and devolution pathway

Throughout this parliament, the Welsh Government has consistently called for the devolution of the Crown Estate. I agree that a key benefit of seeing the Crown Estate devolved would be to enable better strategic planning and would welcome consideration of options that would ensure money would stay in Wales. Our view is that, if we can secure such investment, we could use it – for example – to create new jobs in coastal towns, improve local transport and invest in schools and hospitals. I have instructed my officials to relay your suggestions to the expert group.

Thank you again for all your work on renewable energy and the longer-term infrastructure opportunity for Wales. We are committed to invest in the infrastructure that Wales needs to continue to drive forward the economy and provide the public services that all citizens depend on.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'R' and 'E'.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio