

Julie James AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ86161

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
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Dear Janet,

Thank you for your Written Question of 28 September asking what action is the Welsh Government taking to mitigate the impact off-shore wind farms have on wildlife, especially seabirds.

Our Ministerial role in the offshore area is dependent on the scale of the projects. I have responsibilities for consenting renewable energy projects under 350MW, while UK Government consents projects over 350MW. Further detail can be found here: [Marine Renewable Consenting Process Flowchart \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/marine-renewable-consenting-process-flowchart).

My officials are engaged with the Crown Estate and other government departments with regards to leasing rounds to understand the scale and size of projects, in addition to any early indication of impacts.

Under the relevant legislation which controls developments in the marine environment, developers will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process where interaction with a designated site is involved.

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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.

Competent Authorities (decision-makers) must assess the potential significant effects of proposed plans and projects on all Marine Protected Areas prior to granting consents. Where adverse effects on site integrity cannot be ruled out, the Competent Authority must set out compensatory measures to mitigate any impact to protected features or species.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'J' and 'J'.

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