

**Julie James AS/MS**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol, Tai a Chynllunio  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/05419/24

Cefn Campbell MS

[Cefin.Campbell@Senedd.Wales](mailto:Cefin.Campbell@Senedd.Wales)

12 June 2024

Dear Cefn Campbell MS

Thank you for your written question WQ92976, tabled for answer on 30 May 2024, which asked for examples of undergrounding of electricity cables. Your question was not answered at the Senedd, and I am writing to provide you with a response.

The Welsh Government is not aware of any specific examples of electric cable undergrounding at this time.

Many underground electric cable installations benefit from permitted development rights. Part 17 of the General Permitted Development Order provides permitted development rights to statutory undertakers to carry out certain operations, including the laying of underground electricity lines, subject to certain limitations and conditions. Where underground operations are not covered by permitted development rights, a planning application will normally be submitted to the local planning authority for decision. Where a development of an underground cable relates to a specific Development of National Significance (DNS) proposal, and it is not permitted development, it may be appropriate to consider it as part of the DNS application.

We are convening the Independent Advisory Group to take forward work to build an understanding of the possible approaches to delivering electricity transmission infrastructure. This work will include agreeing principles for the most appropriate solutions for Wales and creating a public evidence base to support the principles. Proposals for new electricity lines would need to meet these principles if they are to be supported by the Welsh Government. The work is expected to assess different forms of electricity transmission infrastructure including undergrounding of cables.

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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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AS/MS**

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