

Virginia Hawkins  
Sustainability Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
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11 June 2010

[www.nationalgrid.com](http://www.nationalgrid.com)

Dear Ms Hawkins,

National Grid is pleased to have this opportunity to contribute to the Sustainability Committee's inquiry into planning in Wales. Whilst we have not structured the information in this letter to answer your specific questions we hope that you will find the information both useful and informative.

### **Introduction to National Grid**

National Grid is an international electricity and gas company and one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. National Grid plays a vital role in delivering gas and electricity to many millions of people across Great Britain in an efficient, reliable and safe manner.

Through regulated subsidiary companies, National Grid owns the electricity transmission network in Wales and England, operates the electricity transmission system throughout Great Britain, owns and operates the gas transmission network throughout Great Britain and four of the eight gas distribution networks delivering gas to some 11 million homes and businesses.

National Grid's primary duties are to operate, maintain and develop its networks in an economic, efficient and co-ordinated way and to facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity and in the supply of gas. Pursuant to its licences, it is required to provide connection to and use of the transmission and distribution networks in a non-discriminatory and transparent way.

Through regulated and non-regulated subsidiaries, National Grid also owns and maintains around 20 million domestic and commercial meters, the electricity interconnector between Great Britain and France, a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) importation terminal at the Isle of Grain and the short range LNG gas storage facilities in Great Britain. National Grid also has a carbon dioxide transportation subsidiary (National Grid Carbon) which is developing infrastructure for the deployment of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) as a key enabler for the transition to a low carbon economy.

## **Information Applicable to the Inquiry**

In order for the UK to meet its targets for renewable energy generation and carbon dioxide emissions reductions there must be significant investment in the UK's energy infrastructure. To achieve this investment and development in a timely manner it is imperative that the UK's planning regimes are as streamlined as possible in order to provide greater certainty, efficiency and consistency for all whilst ensuring the quality of decision-making is maintained. To ensure that this is achieved it is essential that the aims of the Welsh, English and Scottish national planning regimes are all aligned with each other and so far as possible with 'local' planning policies. We look forward to working with the UK governments and devolved regimes on forthcoming legislative proposals.

National Grid believes that it would be beneficial to issue further clarification surrounding the status of Technical Advice Notes relative to other published policies.

Land use zoning at the local level is particularly helpful to developers to guide development activity by considering a range of factors, for example, employment land allocations and locally valued landscapes. Currently such readily-identifiable areas of landscape value, which have been endorsed by communities through the plan inquiry process, are being removed in favour of more generic Landmap-led approaches.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss further any aspects of our response or other issues with which we can help. Should you wish to do so, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Bethany Tucker

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