



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

The Petitions Committee

Completion Report

**Summary of the Petitions Committee's consideration of
P-03-087 Wind Turbines**

May 2008

Presented

9 November 2007.

Ruled Admissible

20 November 2007

Initial Consideration

17 January 2008

The committee agreed that:

- The Chair would write to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing to request clarification of the Welsh Assembly Government's current policy position in relation to TAN 8.
- The Chair would copy this letter to the Sustainability Committee.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 17 January 2008 and Annex 2 for the letter sent to Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing)

A response from Jane Davidson AM was received on 17 February 2008 (See Annex 3)

Further Consideration

06 March 2008

The committee considered this response and agreed to:

- Ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing to consider this petition as part of the 'Energy Route Map' consultation.
- Ask the Sustainability Committee to report on any work they are doing in this area.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 06 March 2008, Annex 4 for the letter sent to Jane Davidson AM and Annex 5 for the letter sent to Mick Bates AM, Chair of the Sustainability Committee)

A response was received from Jane Davidson AM on 5 April 2008 (Annex 6)

24 April 2008

The Committee considered this response and agreed to:

- Close the petition, as:
 - It had made the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing aware of the petition and identified a suitable avenue for it to input into the development of energy policy.

- The Sustainability Committee has included evidence provided by the petitioners as a consultation response as part of an ongoing scrutiny inquiry.
- The Minister agreed to consider the petition as part of the consultation on the Energy Route Map for Wales
- The Sustainability Committee has agreed to bear the petition in mind in any future work it conducts in this area.
- The Petitions Committee could not progress the petition any further.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 24 April 2008)

Petitions Clerk
April 2008

Annex 1

Extracts from Petitions Committee meetings

17 January 2008

Val Lloyd: We move on to our second new petition, P-03-087, which urges the Welsh Assembly Government to reconsider its energy policy, particularly in relation to giant wind turbines. It makes three points: there should be a ruling on the distance permitted between turbines and homes, schools and hospitals in Wales; there should be a full review of the technical advice note 8 guidelines on the siting of wind turbines; and a full cost-benefit analytical comparison should be ordered on potential energy developments. There are some further comments on that last point. Are there any comments from Members?

Bethan Jenkins: I think that we should refer this to the Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing. I think that we should ask her for a clarification of what is happening, because I understood that there was to be a review of TAN 8. So, we could keep the petition open and come back to it when the Minister for environment has replied.

Val Lloyd: I also understand that 'One Wales' mentions a review of TAN 8, and referring this to the Minister is a sound idea. Are there any further comments?

Michael German: Just that we could copy that letter to the committee, saying that we have referred this petition to the Minister. The committee may want to take the Minister's comments into account when it considers the issue.

Val Lloyd: Yes. Is everyone agreed? I see that you are. Thank you.

10 March 2008

Val Lloyd: The next petition is on wind turbines. What do Members consider is the way forward on this issue? Shall we forward the petition to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, as part of the energy route map?

Michael German: Does it say what the committee is doing on this matter? Is it reviewing renewable energy? We do not have a brief from the Sustainability Committee.

Val Lloyd: Are any of us on that committee?

Michael German: No.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I do not believe that it is doing anything on this issue.

Michael German: As this is a very big policy issue, maybe you could refer it to the Chair of the committee and ask the committee to consider any action that it thinks is appropriate, and then let us know

Val Lloyd: Do you want it to go to the Minister as well?

Michael German: Yes.

Val Lloyd: It will go to the Minister and the Chair of the committee for them to consider any appropriate action.

24 April 2008

Val Lloyd: On wind turbines, we had a letter from the Minister, dated 5 April and I understand that that has been circulated to Members. The Minister tells us that the comments, as we requested, will be included as part of the renewable energy route-map consultation exercise. That means that we have passed on the petitioners' concerns and that they are being considered by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Does it not seem that the petitioners are being—

Val Lloyd: I do not think that we can do any more with what the petitioner requested, Andrew. We have gone as far as we can, in the light of what the petitioner asked of us.

Val Lloyd: Powys Community Schools Action—

Mr Sanchez: Sorry, Val, but may I clarify that you have agreed to close it?

Val Lloyd: Yes

Annex 2

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Jane Davidson
Minister for Environment, Sustainability
and Housing
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-087
Your ref:

31 January 2008

Dear Jane

Petition about the Assembly Government's energy policy in relation to 'giant wind turbines'

The Committee considered this petition for the first time on 17th January.

The petition requests that the Welsh Assembly Government reconsiders its energy policy, particularly the promotion of 'giant wind turbines; and specifically requests that the TAN 8 guidelines are reconsidered.

The Committee is aware that One Wales specifically highlights TAN 8 for review in the context of a wider review of WAG's energy strategy. I should be grateful if you could provide me with an update on the progress of this review, which would assist the Committee in giving further consideration to this petition.

Yours sincerely,

Val Lloyd
Chair, Petitions Committee

Annex 3

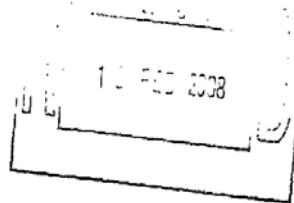
Jane Davidson AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-087
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/00175/08

Val Lloyd AM
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



17 February 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January requesting an update on progress on the planned review of Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Planning for Renewable Energy, announced in "One Wales" last year.

The "One Wales" agreement makes it clear that the the Welsh Assembly Government will review TAN 8, revising upwards the targets for energy from renewables, drawn from a range of sources, following the production of an Energy Route Map and an Assembly Government Energy Strategy. Work is in hand to publish the renewable energy Route Map for consultation this month. When the over-arching energy policy context has been finalised, including any revised targets, the review of TAN 8 will commence. This is likely to be early 2009.

Yours,

Jane Davidson AM
Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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Annex 4

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Jane Davidson AM
Minister for Environment, Sustainability
and Housing
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-087

14 March 2008

Dear Jane

**Petition about the Assembly Government's energy policy in relation to
'giant wind turbines'**

At its meeting on 6 March 2008, the Petitions Committee agreed to write to you in relation to the above petition.

We would like to request that, as part of the on going consultation on the 'Renewable Energy Route Map for Wales', you consider the opinion and evidence associated with the above petition. A copy of the original petition, and additional information supplied by the petitioners is attached to this letter.

I should be grateful if you could consider this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**Val Lloyd,
Chair, Petitions Committee**

Annex 5

Jane Davidson AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-087
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/00386/08

Val Lloyd AM
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 April 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter of 14 March enclosing the petition about the Assembly Government's energy policy on wind turbines, and related information.

As requested, these comments will be included as part of the Renewable Energy Route Map consultation exercise. Our official response will be published in due course once the consultation period ends on 13 May 2008.

Yours,

Jane Davidson AM
Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

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Annex 6

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Mick Bates AM
Chair, Sustainability Committee
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-03-087

23 April 2008

Dear Mick

PETITION: WIND TURBINES

You will be aware that the Petitions Committee has been considering a petition calling on the Welsh Assembly Government to reconsider its energy policy, particularly in relation to 'giant' wind turbines. The petition also calls on the Assembly Government to suspend and reconsider TAN 8.

The Committee agreed that the most appropriate way to address this petition was to submit it to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing's current consultation on an Energy Route Map for Wales. The Minister has responded positively, stating that she will consider this petition as part of her review. She has also indicated that she will be reviewing TAN 8 in 'early 2009'.

As this issue falls within your scrutiny Committee's remit, the Petitions Committee agreed to copy you in on these Ministerial responses, as it was agreed that they may be of use to your Committee should it conduct work in this area in the future. To be clear, this petition is not being formally referred to your Committee.

This Petition will be considered again at the Committee's meeting on 24 April 2008.

Yours sincerely

Val Lloyd
Chair, Petitions Committee