



## Climate Emergency

20 March 2023

### Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 6 March in which you asked:

*Dear Freedom of Information Team*

*Subject: Evidence of Climate Emergency*

*I refer to the above subject. "Future Wales - National Plan 2040" [the Plan] was published 24 February 2021 by Welsh Government, following scrutiny and approval by Welsh Parliament.*

*Energy policy in Wales is driven by the declared "climate emergency". 10 pre-assessed areas, where there is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development, are identified in the Plan; as outlined in Annex 1 below.*

*I would be grateful if you could arrange to provide me with a copy of the evidence - provided by Welsh Government to Welsh Parliament - to support the assertion of a climate emergency.*

Please find our response to your request below.

On **29 April 2019**, the then Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths MS, declared a climate emergency. However, legislation relating to climate change had been in place in Wales for several years prior to the declaration. This legislation has been the driver for climate change policy for over a decade.

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Eleven years before the then Minister's declaration, the [Climate Change Act 2008](#) required the UK Government to set a target for the year 2050 for the reduction of targeted greenhouse gas emissions for the whole of the UK.

This was followed by the Welsh Government's 2010 Climate [strategy](#), which committed to a reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions to a level 40% below 1990 levels by 2020. The Strategy included a target to reduce emissions in areas within devolved competence (i.e. in policy areas where the Welsh Government has responsibility) by 3% each year from 2011, relative to a baseline of average emissions during 2006-2010.

Later, legislation was introduced to set emission reduction targets in Wales. Welsh Ministers are required by the [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) to meet targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from Wales.

The Senedd's consideration of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 is included on the [Senedd's website](#). Paragraphs 136-159 (pages 39-43) of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) accompanying the Act set out the Welsh Government's position on climate change.

Please note, the Explanatory Memorandum refers to the UK Climate Change Committee, which advises the Welsh Government on how to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses in Wales, and which was established under section 32 of the [Climate Change Act 2008](#).

As this information is available on our website your request is subject to section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which exempts information that is already reasonably accessible by other means.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Manager**  
**Welsh Parliament**

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the **Code of Practice on Public Access to Information**. If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance below.

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Parliament's handling of your request, you can request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Manager at:

**Information-request@senedd.wales** or in writing to

Welsh Parliament  
Governance and Assurance  
Cardiff Bay  
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If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
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Cheshire  
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