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Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol  
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/05946/19

Mr Peter Foulkes  
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Dear Mr Foulkes,

Thank you for your letter of 16 May regarding Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 10 and specifically paragraph 5.9.17 in the Renewable Energy section.

Paragraph 5.9.17 of PPW10 has been drafted to explicitly support the delivery of Welsh Government's decarbonisation of energy policy agenda. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets a legal target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050. Welsh Government also declared a climate emergency in Wales at the end of April. This declaration recognises the magnitude of the issue and the need for collective action.

Within this context, the planning system has a critical functional role in the delivery of policy and targets. PPW10 and paragraph 5.9.17 set out a positive pathway for the delivery of the renewable energy policy agenda.

PPW10 calls for local planning authorities to be proactive and strategic in identifying where and how they can deliver the above agenda. Paragraph 5.7.18 states, "*local authorities must take an active, leadership approach at the local or regional level, by identifying challenging, but achievable targets for renewable energy in development plans*". Paragraph 5.7.19 further adds, "*planning authorities should consider the renewable energy resource they have available in their areas when formulating their renewable energy target, informed by an appropriate evidence base and the use of the full range of policy options available, including developing spatial policies in their development plans*".

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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.

Alongside this policy, PPW10 asks local planning authorities to undertake a Green Infrastructure Assessment, again being proactive and strategic. Paragraph 6.2.7 sets out, *“the Green Infrastructure Assessment should be used to develop a robust approach to enhancing biodiversity, increasing resilience and improving well-being outcomes, and should identify key strategic opportunities where the restoration, maintenance, creation or connection of green features and functions would deliver the most significant benefits”*.

The identification of spatial renewable energy policies in development plans informed by a green infrastructure assessment along with the completion of appropriate impact assessments at the planning application stage, provides a robust pathway for the delivery of the renewable energy policy agenda and appropriate safeguards for the protection of landscape.

Yours sincerely,



**Julie James AC/AM**

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