

John Griffiths AC /AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-329
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/06333/11

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

6 October 2011

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William,

Petitions Committee - Control of Noise Nuisance from Wind Turbines

Thank you for your letter of 19 September. Where you asked my views on Petition P-04-329 Control of Noise Nuisance from Wind Turbines.

Noise is an issue most appropriately considered at the local level as its impacts will vary according to local circumstances. TAN 8 recognises that noise is an issue and provides detailed guidance on this.

It is for the decision maker, either the LPA or the IPC, to assess the noise impacts as part of the decision making process. Planning applications can be conditioned to make the development acceptable and restrictions on generation can be imposed via the use of planning conditions so we would refute the need for further unnecessary legislation as proposed in this petition.

I recognise that there has been much speculation surrounding the issue of noise from wind turbines, with concerns about possible health impacts often inaccurately and emotively portrayed in the media. However, independent research for the UK Government on the impacts of noise from turbines indicate that there is no evidence to support claims of negative health impacts, and that the existing guidelines do not require revision.

While we accept and stand by this research as our current evidence base, we also accept that this is a burgeoning science, and that the issue remains one of public concern. We

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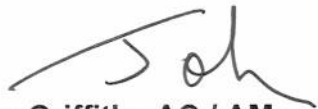
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therefore welcome further evidence and discussion on wind turbine noise, to enhance our current understanding and reassure public confidence.

Best wishes,



John Griffiths AC / AM

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