

Llansanffraid Action Group

From: Digby Davies, Focal Point

Environment and Sustainability Committee
Inquiry into Energy Policy and Planning in Wales
EPP 4 – Llansanffraid Action Group

Ref.: WAG-E&S.Comm- 001 10-8-11

Date: 23 August 2011

To: The Clerk at E&S Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Inquiry Into Energy policy and Planning in Wales

We refer to the letter of 2nd August from Dafydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM regarding the above inquiry and would like the following submission to be taken into account. While we only speak for the Llansanffraid community, we believe that the issues raised in this submission are of particular concern to the wider public in Mid Wales – see e.g. the petitions recently handed to the Welsh Assembly, in particular from Conservation for Upland Powys and Montgomeryshire Against Pylons and the large attendance at the Powys County Council public meeting held in Welshpool on 29th June 2011.

Before we get to the submission, we would be grateful if you will clarify the following points and let us know the relevant timescales for:

- When the Inquiry will start and the date for conclusion;
- When the findings will be issued;
- What period the inquiry is expected to cover, e.g. the next 5 years or 120 years.

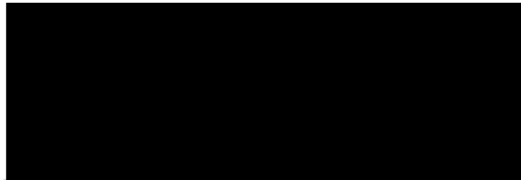
Our submission – set out as points 1-6 below - relates directly to the terms of reference for the review and issues to be considered by the committee as set out in the letter of 2nd August and to the documents cited in the letter.

1. **Duplicate energy and carbon reduction policies.** We consider it to be inappropriate that both the Welsh and UK Governments should have separate energy policies and carbon reduction policies. The UK is physically small with each of the major energy generation and networks inextricably interwoven i.e. electricity, gas and oil. Duplication of such policies and the associated cost is a heavy penalty for the tax-payer particularly in a period of economic austerity. We ask that this be addressed.
2. **The number of different consenting bodies.** This is a particular concern for the average person. The number of different consenting bodies results in a lack of clarity in the consultation and approval process. This makes it difficult for people to have a realistic input. Also, it allows one organisation to play one off against another. If item 1 was addressed this would help to resolve this issue.

Llansanffraid Action Group

3. **OFGEM.** While OFGEM is not a consenting body it does have a role and impact on energy policy. We believe that OFGEM's role and impact should be considered by the Inquiry.
4. **TAN 8.** Given the changes since TAN 8 was drafted we feel that the question of a review of TAN 8 should be a separate item within this inquiry. Many of the other issues to be considered by the inquiry will have a direct impact on TAN 8. We also think that the current scope of TAN 8 far exceeds that of a technical advice note and is now in the realm of policy. Therefore, consideration of a review of TAN 8 would best be made after other relevant issues have been considered.
5. **Transport issues.** The paper P-03-273, referenced in the letter of 2nd August, only considers transport of wind turbines themselves. However, there is a significant amount of transport directly associated with the construction and necessary infrastructure. One example is that several thousand movements of lorries will be required for the materials for the concrete bases for the turbines.
6. **Additional issues.** Based on feedback within our community and discussions with other groups concern is expressed on the following two issues that we believe the Inquiry should also consider.
 - (i) Lack of clarity regarding vested interests particularly those of our politicians, many of whom are landowners in TAN 8 areas or may have a direct or indirect interest in the renewable energy industry.
 - (ii) Lack of clarity on who pays the subsidies/rent to the landowners for the placing of wind turbines on their land, and how this impacts on the cost of electricity/taxes.

Yours faithfully,



Digby Davies on behalf of - 1 | 0

Llansanffraid Local Action Group (LAG) against Pylons and Wind farms

This informal LAG is made up of 9 local householders and landowners with interests including farming, construction, engineering, local business, public service, education and the professions; one of us is also a member of the Community Council. Our role is to raise awareness among local stakeholders to the threats to the local economy, environment, jobs and health from pylons and wind farms. We encourage stakeholders' involvement in the public consultation process and, to the best of our ability, will respond to their demands for support and advice. We also communicate with other similar groups in towns and villages across the whole area affected by the proposed Mid-Wales Connection project, with the media and elected representatives including Powys County Council, the Welsh Assembly Government, the UK Government and other public bodies. We also are in touch with Montgomeryshire Against Pylons (MAP), the Campaign for Upland Powys, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, Hawliwn y Grym (Take the Power Back) and others.

Llansanffraid Action Group

List of Members

Digby Davies (Focal Point)

Bob Campbell,

Robert Hall,

Paul Lucock,

Heike O'Hanlon,

Rhisiart ap Rhys,

Peter Stokes,

Derek Swain,

Gwynfor Thomas,