



ADDRESS:
Statkraft UK Ltd
41 Moorgate
London EC2R 6PP
TELEPHONE:
020 7448 8200

FAX:
020 7448 8241
INTERNET:
www.statkraft.com

Mr William Powell AM
Petitions Committee - Chairman
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

7th March 2012

Dear Mr Powell,

I am writing to thank the Petitions Committee for their visit to the Alltwalis Wind Farm on the 27th February. Statkraft was pleased to host the visit and to have the opportunity to meet and answer questions directly from committee members, and to provide an accurate summary of the activities that have taken place since the first noise complaints were received in October 2009.

We understand that the public meeting held on the following day in Carmarthen included numerous comments about the Alltwalis Wind Farm and the way in which Statkraft has dealt with noise complaints.

We regret to hear that some committee members might have felt misled in regards our response to complaints, so we would like to place on record that all information provided to members and previously to Carmarthenshire County Council is wholly accurate, and we would be happy to provide detailed evidence to back up our response to dealing with noise complaints.

Statkraft has worked closely with many local residents, the local council and the wind turbine supplier to rectify the noise issues at the Alltwalis wind farm which culminated in a number of turbine retrofits, operation modifications on the wind farm and even a gearbox being changed on one of the turbines

It is unfortunate that since these retrofits were implemented and before the gearbox was changed, Statkraft has for the last year been repeatedly refused the request to access wind data from the monitoring equipment deployed at the end of 2009 at the home of the main complainants, despite receiving a significant financial claim from the owners of one of the properties. After numerous request to continue to monitor the noise from Alltwalis, Statkraft decided to retrieve all the equipment deployed having successfully shown to the Council and the Welsh Government that the Alltwalis Wind Farm is operating within full compliance of its conditioned noise limits, both in terms of the overall level of noise emissions at neighbouring residential properties and the absence of audible tonal elements within these noise emissions.

We are pleased to have formed a close working relationship with Carmarthenshire County Council whilst addressing the noise complaints and I am sure that they would be happy to provide further evidence in regards the steps that Statkraft has completed to address legitimate concerns.

Statkraft has shown itself to be a responsible developer and has, on numerous occasions, shut down one or more turbines in order to address noise complaints. We would be pleased to provide you with a copy of the resident noise log that will clearly and unequivocally demonstrate all noise complaints received and what action was taken.

The wind farm continues to legally operate within the conditions laid down by the local authority when planning consent was granted. Statkraft has shown with specific actions that it is willing to correct and operate Alltwalis Wind Farm within its conditioned noise limits.

Whilst we provided you a summary of the noise report completed by our consultants, Hoare Lea Acoustics, we would also be pleased to provide the full report should you wish to receive additional analysis.

I would also like to reiterate the point that I made when we met that the wind farm is fully compliant and is operating within the conditioned limits established through the planning process. Statkraft is operating Alltwalis Wind Farm within its lawful rights. Please find enclosed a copy of the planning conditions that relate to noise.

Statkraft has conducted itself in an open and transparent manner. The information that was shared with the Petitions Committee when we provided a briefing and site visit is wholly accurate.

We would also be happy to answer any additional questions that you may have following the public meeting.

Yours sincerely



Sergio Castedo

Director

Statkraft Wind UK Ltd

cc Russell George AM
Bethan Jenkins AM
Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM
Joyce Watson AM
Sarita Marshall – Petitions Committee Clerk

CONSENTED NOISE LIMITS

2.1 The planning consent for the Wind Farm includes, as part of its associated conditions, limits for noise immission levels that are permitted at neighbouring residential properties as a consequence of the operation of the wind farm. The noise elements of the conditions state:

12 At the reasonable request of and following a complaint to the Council the operator of the development shall measure and assess at its expense the level of noise emissions from the wind turbine generators following the procedures described in Section 2.0, Pages 102 to 104 in the document "The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms, ETSU-R-97" published by ETSU for the Department of Trade and Industry.

13 The level of noise emissions from the combined effects of the wind turbine generators when measured at Blaengwen Isaf, Rhoswen, Brynawelon, Gellifelen, Coedlannau Fawr, Lan Farm shall not exceed:

(i) During night-time the greater of 43dB(A) L90,10min or 5dB above the night-time LA90 background noise level at wind speeds not exceeding 12 metres per second.;

(a) and at all other times

(ii) The greater of 40dB(A) L90,10min or 5dB above the quiet day-time LA90 background noise level at wind speeds not exceeding 12 metres per second.

14 The level of noise emissions from the combined effects of the wind turbine generators when measured at Blaengwen Farm, Bedwhirion and Pen-llwydcoed shall not exceed:

(i) During night-time the greater of 45dB(A) L90,10min or 5dB above the night-time LA90 background noise level at wind speeds not exceeding 12 metres per second.;

(a) and at all other times

(ii) The greater of 45dB(A) L90,10min or 5dB above the quiet day-time LA90 background noise level at wind speeds not exceeding 12 metres per second.

15 Background noise levels referred to in this condition shall be those recorded by the regression lines in the Blaengwen Wind Farm Environmental Statement submitted with the application.

Night-time means 2300-0700 hours on all days. Quiet day-time means 1800-2300 hours on all days plus 0700-1800 hours on Sundays and 1300-1800 hours on Saturdays. Wind speeds shall

be measured on site at a height of 10 metres above ground level.

16 At all other dwellings excepting those specified in Condition No. 15 the level of noise emissions from the combined effects to the wind turbine generators shall not exceed the levels specified in Condition No. 13.

17 The operator of the development shall produce wind speed and wind direction data to the Council at its reasonable request to enable compliance with and performance under Condition No.13 to be monitored. This wind data shall include the wind speed in metres per second (ms-1) and the wind direction in degrees from north for each 10 minute period. At the reasonable request of the Local Planning Authority the recorded data relating to 10m height above ground level shall be made available to them. Where wind speed is measured at a height other than 10m, the wind speed data shall be converted to 10m height, accounting for wind shear by a method whose details shall also be provided to the Local Planning Authority.

18 Details of the proposed turbines and their noise characteristics shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to their becoming operational.

21 Tonal noise shall be measured by the operator of the development at its expense for audibility at the reasonable request of and following a complaint to the Council in accordance with the document "The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms, ETSU-R-97" published by ETSU for the Department of Trade and Industry.

If, at any property, the tonal noise from the combined effect of the wind turbines generators exceeds the threshold of audibility:-

(a) by more than 2.0dB but less than 6.5dB a penalty of $((5/6.5) \times \text{Audibility})\text{dB}$ shall be added to the noise level derived for that property measured in accordance with Condition 12.

(b) by more than 6.5dB a penalty of 5dB shall be added to the noise level derived for that property measured in accordance with Condition 12.