

Dear

## **ATISN 17200 - Wind Farm Planning Policy.**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 24 February. You asked for:

1. The studies undertaken by ARUP, on behalf of Welsh Government, identified 15 Priority Areas for Solar and Wind Energy in Wales, as identified on map in their executive summary. The analysis was undertaken to inform the "National Development Framework" and "Energy Atlas Wales". Has any further work been undertaken by Welsh Government, or external consultants, resulting in the 10 areas for wind power now identified in "Future Wales - National Plan 2040"?
2. Does "Future Wales - National Plan 2040" supersede "TAN 8" in terms of wind farm planning guidance, given that the TAN was published in 2005?
3. Is Welsh Government able to provide an approximate timeframe for publishing "Energy Atlas Wales"?

### **Our response**

The information you requested is enclosed.

#### **Question 1**

The final 10 PAAs in Future Wales were informed by the Arup report '[Assessment of onshore wind and solar energy potential in Wales](#)' and the [draft Future Wales public consultation](#) exercise. The initial 15 areas identified in the Arup report were refined as described below. The changes are also set out in general terms in the [Future Wales: statement to Senedd](#) Feb 2021.

The final Pre-Assessed Area's as set out in Future Wales were wind only and omitted solar, and were amended as follows:

- Area 1: Deleted in its entirety due to MOD constraints.
- Area 2: Deleted as it is a solar-only area.
- Area 3: Solar area deleted.
- Area 4: Deleted as it is a solar-only area.
- Area 5: Affected by low flying zone.
- Area 6: Affected by low flying zone.
- Area 7: Not affected.
- Area 8: Deleted in its entirety due to MOD constraints.
- Area 9: Affected by low flying zone.
- Area 10: Solar area deleted, and western boundary amended to exclude MOD constraint.
- Area 11: Western boundary amended to take into account bat migration route.
- Area 12: Deleted as it is a solar-only area.

Area 13: Deleted as it is a solar-only area.

Area 14: Solar area deleted, and new southern boundary amended by MOD constraint.

Area 15: Solar area deleted.

Following the amendments described above, the areas were renumbered as follows:

Priority Area (PA) 3 is now Pre-Assessed Area (PAA) 1.

PA 15 is now PAA 2.

PA 5 is now PAA 3.

PA 6 is now PAA 4.

PA 7 is now PAA 5.

PA 9 is now PAA 6.

PA 10 is now PAA 7.

PA 11 is now PAA 8.

PA 14 is now PAA 9 and 10.

Please see the note of information below for additional details.

## **Question 2**

TAN 8 and its associated Strategic Search Areas have been revoked and were replaced by Future Wales policy 17 and Pre-Assessed Areas (PAAs) in February 2021.

Please see the note of information below for additional details.

## **Question 3**

Energy Atlas Wales is not a commitment of the current administration.

Please see the note of information below for additional details.

## **Note of Information**

Q1. The 10 PAAs in Future Wales are mapped at a scale of greater than 1:100000 and are not intended to designate precise boundaries. The best place to view PAAs is [DatamapWales](#), where boundaries can be seen in the context of local geographical features.

Q2. Reference to the revocation of TAN 8 is set out in the Welsh Government's [decision report](#) of 7 January 2021. The decision report states that the Minister for Housing and Local Government has agreed the publication of Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 alongside Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 and the consequential revocation of Technical Advice Note 8: Planning for Renewable Energy on the same date both documents are published. Notification of TAN 8 revocation is also set out in Future Wales [newsletter 17](#) February 2021.

Q3. The Energy Atlas work from the previous administration has been superseded by the Welsh Government's Energy Planning agenda, as set out in "[Net Zero Wales](#)". Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) for Bridgend, Newport, Conwy and Pembrokeshire are now in place and Welsh Government is currently supporting all other local authorities to develop their plans by March 2024. LAEPs are assisting local authority areas transition to a net zero future. The publication of local energy plans is a matter for each authority. Welsh Government has committed to publish a National Energy Plan in 2024.

## **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at: Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely