

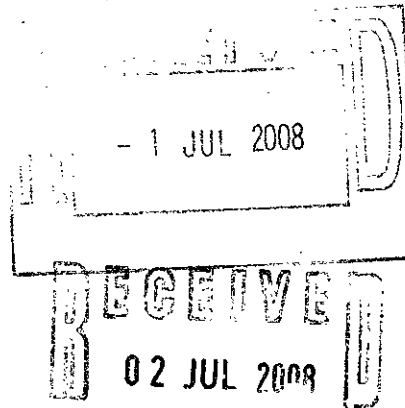
Jane Davidson AC/AM

**Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-068
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/00781/08
Val Lloyd AM
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



29 June 2008

Val,

APPO

Thank you for your letter of 18th June 2008 regarding a FEPA licence for Rhyl Flats.

Licences have been approved under Part II of the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) 1985 in specific relation to deposits on the seabed.

The work permitted under these licences is for the construction of a 150MW offshore wind farm and associated infrastructure off Rhyl Flats more specifically, the installation of up to 30 wind turbines, an offshore substation and an additional meteorological mast.

The company, Npower, has undertaken pre-construction monitoring to provide a baseline for subsequent monitoring of effects of the wind farm and further monitoring is required during the construction and post construction phases of the project. NPower also provides the Marine and Fisheries Agency, who currently act on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government in issuing FEPA licences, with a written weekly update of progress throughout the pile driving activities.

Monitoring conditions specified in the licence cover a wide range of activities from sediment and hydrological processes to electromagnetic fields and subsea noise and vibration. Conditions require monitoring reports to be sent to the Marine and Fisheries Agency, who then consult the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW).

The Marine and Fisheries Agency inform us that there has been no contravention identified on the Rhyl Flats FEPA licence.

I hope the above address your queries; I have attached a copy of the latest Rhyl Flats licence for your review and retention.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours,

Jane Davidson AM

**Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing**

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8129
PS.minister.for.ESH@wales.gsi.gov.uk

FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 1985 : PART II (AS AMENDED) -
DEPOSITS IN THE SEA IN CONNECTION WITH MARINE CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Licence 31640/08/2

The National Assembly for Wales (hereinafter referred to as "the Licensing Authority") hereby authorises:

**RHYL FLATS WIND FARM LTD
WINDMILL BUSINESS PARK
WHITEHALL WAY
SWINDON
SN5 6PB**

Company Registration No: **5485961**

(hereinafter referred to as "the Licence Holder") to deposit in the sea the substances or articles the particulars of which are set out at paragraph 1.1 of the attached Schedule. The Licence is subject to the conditions of use set out, or referred to, in the said Schedule.

This licence shall be valid from the beginning of the day of **25 April 2008**, (hereinafter referred to as the start date of this licence) to the end of the day of **31 August 2009**, (hereinafter referred to as the end or expiry date of this licence), and replaces licence 31640/07/1 and all the terms and conditions in the schedule associated with that licence.

For the purposes of this licence and attached schedule and unless indicated otherwise:-

- (i) all times shall be taken to be Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), and,
- (ii) all co-ordinates shall be taken to be latitude and longitude degrees and minutes to two decimal places.

Signed:

Marine Environment Team of the Marine
and Fisheries Agency

for and on behalf of the Licensing Authority

Date of issue: 25 April 2008

The Licence Holder is urged to read carefully all the conditions and requirements of this Licence which are set out in the Schedule. You should acknowledge receipt of this licence and confirm that you have understood its term by signing and returning Form FEP 14 within 28 days of the date of issue of this licence

1. Particulars of the deposit

- 1.1 The type of works for which the deposit of the substances or articles as specified in paragraph 1.4 of this Schedule are :

**Mattress
Windfarm**

- 1.2 Details of the works requiring the deposit of the substances or articles as specified at paragraph 1.1 of this Schedule are:-

The construction of a 150MW offshore windfarm and associated infrastructure at Rhyl Flats, approximately 10km from the North Wales coast, north west of Rhyl as described in Celtic Offshore Wind Ltd application dated the 25th March to the Marine Consents and Environment Unit and as revised by the Supplemental Environmental Information (submitted 15th July 2002)

- 1.3. Such works are as detailed in the drawing(s) and sectional plan(s) which were submitted in support of your application to the Licensing Authority of 25 March 2002

- 1.4 The substances or articles authorised for deposit at sea are:

**Iron / Steel
Other**

- 1.5. The Licence Holder and any Agent and Contractor acting on their behalf is permitted to deposit the substances or articles specified at paragraph 1.4 of this Schedule, at the following location(s):

RHYL FLATS,

53 24.205 N	03 42.112 W	SH86879100
53 22.838 N	03 36.040 W	SH93548831
53 23.067 N	03 42.825 W	SH86038891
53 21.701 N	03 36.755 W	SH92708622

RHYL FLATS : CABLE ROUTE

53 22.274 N	03 39.023 W	SH90218734
53 18.373 N	03 34.693 W	SH94858000
53 18.178 N	03 33.128 W	SH96587960

RHYL FLATS : NEW MET MAST

53 23.420 N 03 38.970 W

RHYL FLATS : EXISTING MET MAST

53 22.080 N 03 38.510 W

- 1.6. The works shall be carried out in accordance with the works schedule and method statement as detailed in the following:

The construction of an offshore wind farm located approximately 10km from the North Wales coast, off Abergele. Works include the installation of up to 30 wind turbines in three rows of 7, 11 and 12 turbines, an offshore substation (optional) and an additional meteorological mast. (An existing meteorological mast also forms part the windfarm site - licence ref. 31456/02/2).

It is anticipated that onshore assembly will take place at a local port (either Holyhead, Mostyn or Liverpool) and all components and assembly equipment will then be transferred to the site via suitable vessels, supplemented by a transport barge and tugs, as and when required in accordance with the construction programme.

The pile foundations will be drilled/driven into the seabed for the wind turbine bases, the substation base and the meteorological mast by a suitable vessel. The foundations (support structures) will comprise tubular steel monopiles, 4-5.85m in diameter and with a maximum penetration in to the seabed of 40m. Scour protection may be installed in accordance with Supplementary Conditions 9.17 and 9.18.

2. Persons Responsible for the Deposit of the Substances or Articles

- 2.1. The Agents and Contractors permitted to engage in activities subject to the terms and conditions of this licence are:-

<u>Name of Agent or Contractor</u>	<u>Function</u>
MT Hojgaard a/s	Construction Contractor
Peter Madsen Rederi	Construction Contractor

- 2.2. The following operators and vessel(s) or vehicle(s) are permitted to engage in activities subject to the terms and conditions of this licence are:

<u>Name of Vessel or Vehicle Registration</u>	<u>Operator</u>	<u>Type</u>
M/S PETER MADSEN	Peter Madsen Rederi	SHIP
M/S MERETE CHRIS	Peter Madsen Rederi	SHIP
M/S AASE MADSEN	Peter Madsen Rederi	SHIP
M/S GRY MADSEN	Peter Madsen Rederi	DREDGER
M/S GRETE FIGHTER	Peter Madsen Rederi	DREDGER
M/S MARGRETHE FIGHTER	Peter Madsen Rederi	DREDGER
M/S JOHN MADSEN	Peter Madsen Rederi	SHIP
M/S SEAWORKER	Peter Madsen Rederi	SHIP
Svanen	Ballast Nedam	Barge
Sea Alfa	Ballast Nedam	Tug
Marineco Hathi	Ballast Nedam	Tug
E1703	Arnoud Kamp	Barge

3. Distribution of copies of this Licence 31640/08/2

- 3.1. The Licence Holder is required to ensure that a copy of this licence 31640/08/2 and attached Schedule, any special conditions and any subsequent revisions or amendments thereto is given to:

3.1.1. All Agent(s) and Contractor(s) as detailed at paragraph 2.1; and

- 3.1.2 The Masters of all vessels and transport managers responsible for the vehicles employed in the pursuance of this Licence **31640/08/2** and detailed at paragraph 2.2.
- 3.2 Copies of this Licence **31640/08/2** shall also be available at the following locations :
 - 3.2.1 at the address of the Licence Holder;
 - 3.2.2 at any site office, located at or adjacent to the site of the works, used by the Licence Holder, agent(s) or contractor(s) responsible for the loading transportation or deposit of those substances or articles detailed at paragraph 1.2.1 of this Schedule; and,
 - 3.2.3 on board each vessel or at the office of any transport manager with responsibility for vehicles from which licensed deposits are to be made.

4. Inspection of the Operation

- 4.1 The documents referred to in paragraph 3 shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection by an authorised Enforcement Officer at the locations stated in that paragraph.
- 4.2 The Licence Holder must advise the Licensing Authority and District Inspector of Fisheries (being a designated officer responsible for enforcement of this Licence) 5 working days before the licensed operation, or an individual phase of the operation is expected to commence.

5. Returns to be made to the Licensing Authority

- 5.1 The Licence Holder is required to acknowledge receipt of this licence **31640/08/2** and confirm that you have understood its term by signing and returning Form FEP 14 within 28 days of the date of issue of this Licence. No operations permitted under the terms of this licence **31640/08/2** shall commence until the FEP 14 form has been signed and returned to the Licensing Authority.
- 5.2 All persons referred to at paragraph 2.1 and 2.2 of this Schedule shall provide an acknowledgement, using Form FEP 13, of their receipt of this licence **31640/08/2** and their understanding of all the conditions specified therein to the Licensing Authority within 28 working days of the start date of this Licence **31640/08/2** or prior to engaging in any activity to which this Licence relates, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.3 Only those Agent(s) or Contractor(s) whose names appear at paragraph 2.1 and the vessel(s) and operator(s) **31640/08/2** whose names appear at paragraph 2.2 may operate under the terms of this Licence . Any changes must be notified to and be approved by the Licensing Authority in writing prior to operating under this Licence **31640/08/2** .

6. Contacts

- 6.1 Except where otherwise indicated, the primary point of contact with the Licensing Authority and the address for returns and correspondence shall be:-

**Marine and Fisheries Agency
Marine Environment Team
Area 6B
3-8 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2HH**

Tel: 020 7270 8696

- 6.2 For the purposes of this Licence **31640/08/2** any references to the Local District Inspector of Fisheries shall mean the relevant District Inspector in the area(s) located at:-

**Defra Fisheries Office
Suite 3 Cedar Court
Havens' Head Business Park
Milford haven
Pembrokeshire
SA73 3LS**

Tel; 01646 693412/693466

- 6.3 For the purposes of this Licence **31640/08/2** any references to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) shall mean:-

**Centre for the Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science
(CEFAS),
The Laboratory
Remembrance Avenue
Burnham-on-Crouch
Essex CM0 8HA**

Tel; 01621 787200

- 6.4 For the purposes of this Licence **31640/08/2** any references to Countryside Council for Wales shall mean:-

**Countryside Council for Wales(CCW)
Plas Penrhos
Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 2JA**

Tel: 01248 385737

7. Force Majeure

- 7.1 If, by reason of "force majeure" the substances or articles specified at sub-paragraph 1.4 of this Schedule, are deposited otherwise than in the area authorised by this licence at paragraph 1.5, full details of the circumstances shall be notified to the Licensing Authority within 48 hours of the incident occurring.

"force majeure" may be deemed to apply when, due to stress of weather or any other cause, the master of a vessel determines that it is necessary to deposit the substances or articles because the safety of human life and/or of the vessel is threatened.

8. Changes to this licence

- 8.1 In the event of the Licence Holder becoming aware that any of the information on which the granting of this licence **31640/08/2** was based has changed or is likely to change, he/she shall notify the Licensing Authority at the earliest opportunity of the details.
- 8.2 Similarly in the event that the Licence Holder wishes any of the particulars set down in the Schedule to be altered he/she shall inform the Licensing Authority at the earliest opportunity. The terms and conditions of this Licence apply until such time as they may be varied by the Licensing Authority.

9. Supplementary Conditions

The Licence Holder must submit the reports of the monitoring activities set out in the following Supplementary Conditions to the Licensing Authority at the appropriate time in order to allow the Licensing authority to consider if any action may be required to mitigate or correct any adverse effects which may be identified.

The Licensing Authority reserves the right to vary or attach additional conditions to this Licence in the event that:

- The results of the monitoring studies required under the Terms of the Schedule to this Licence,
- Any other observed effects considered to be directly associated with the works permitted by this Licence suggest a risk of significant adverse environmental impact.

- 9.1 To minimise impacts on fisheries, and over-wintering Common Scoter, construction works must not be undertaken between 16 December and March (inclusive). The majority of construction works must take place between April to September (inclusive) the only exceptions to this being works associated with testing and commissioning, the installation of turbines and the meteorological mast in the northern row, turbines 8-13 in the middle row and turbines 19-20 in the southern row and the installation of cabling between the turbines and the meteorological mast in the northern and middle rows, which may be undertaken, if necessary, between October and 15 December (inclusive).

To minimise the impacts on fish spawning, pile driving can only be undertaken as follows:

- (i) - Piling on the southern row from 1st April
-Piling on the central row from 1st May
-Piling on the northern row from 15th May
- Piling must be completed within 1 calendar year (from the first day of construction)
- Pile driving does not overlap with any other Offshore Wind Farm developments in Liverpool Bay
- Only one pile driving vessel must be in operation at any point in time

(ii) The Licence Holder must provide the Licensing Authority with a written weekly update of progress throughout pile driving activities (for all 30 monopiles). This update must include the location and number of the piles installed per row, a rough duration of pile driving activity per pile, any problems encountered, the reasons for any request for consent to amend the installation schedule, and Marine Mammal Monitoring Team effort (times of observation and times of duration of observations) and sightings data.

The Licence Holder will submit, for approval, a vessel routing plan, to apply to the turbine installation vessels carrying out the permitted work during the period October to December 15th. The route will avoid the main Common Scoter areas and is to be approved before the turbine erection works are undertaken in the period. Should it be critical that works, other than that specified above, are necessary between October and 15 December (inclusive), written approval should be sought, in advance, from the Licensing Authority (following consultation with CEFAS and CCW) which will consider the request on a case by case basis.

- 9.2 Pre-construction monitoring must be carried out in 2006/2007 to provide a baseline for subsequent monitoring of the effects of the wind farm. NB. The Licence Holder will

need agreement from the Licensing Authority that the pre-construction monitoring has generated adequate baseline data to support the construction and post construction monitoring. Assuming that the construction of the wind farm is completed as scheduled during the summer months of 2008, a post-construction monitoring programme must commence in late summer/autumn to follow the completion of the works. Monitoring must be carried out at the same time each year for comparative purposes in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Therefore, the initial monitoring schedule is as follows: -

Pre- Construction -	2005, 2006 & 2007
Construction -	2007 & 2008
Post Construction/Operation -	late summer/autumn 2009/2010/2011

Further monitoring requirements may be imposed by the Licensing Authority in the light of the results of each phase of the monitoring programme.

9.3 If the period of construction varies from that described in 9.2 above, or where unavoidable problems occur in meeting this schedule, the Licence Holder must notify the Licensing Authority and seek instruction on the monitoring schedule.

9.4 The monitoring reports must be forwarded to the Licensing Authority & the Countryside Council for Wales on an annual basis, or more frequently if the results trigger further monitoring work. Each report must be forwarded to the Licensing Authority within 3 months of the completion of the analyses. The Licence Holder should advise the Licensing Authority if circumstances suggest that there will be a delay in the submission of reports.

The reports should include assessment, conclusions and an executive summary and the data within all reports should be presented in its processed and unprocessed forms.

The various components of the monitoring programme and resultant reports, as described in conditions 9.5 to 9.9 of this Licence, should be integrated so as to compare related environmental parameters e.g. the bird monitoring should address the conclusions of the benthic studies which should similarly draw on the sedimentary studies.

Monitoring of Sedimentary and Hydrological Processes, Benthic Ecology, Electromagnetic Fields and Noise & Vibration

9.5 The Licence Holder must carry out a programme of sedimentary, hydrological, benthic and other monitoring, as outlined in Annex 1 attached to this Schedule. The full specification for the monitoring programme will be subject to separate written agreement with the Licensing Authority following consultation with CEFAS and the Countryside Council for Wales at least one month prior to the proposed commencement of the monitoring work.

9.6 The Licence Holder must make provision during the construction phase of the wind farm to install facilities to enable subsea noise and vibration from the turbines to be assessed and monitored during the operational phase of the wind farm. Before completion of the construction phase the Licence Holder must supply specification to the Licensing Authority of how it proposes to measure subsea noise and vibration - at various frequencies across the sound spectrum at a selection of locations immediately adjacent to, and between turbines, within the array and outside the array at varying distances - in order to fulfil the monitoring requirement outlined in Annex 1 attached to this Licence. Such a study would need to reflect differences in

foundation/tower type, water depths and sediment types within the site and would need to be supported by adequate baseline data. Collaborative studies, e.g. research funded by COWRIE in this respect, would be an acceptable means of fulfilling this condition.

Fish Monitoring

- 9.7 Since very little is known about the potential effect of wind farms in terms of enhancing or aggregating fish populations, the Licence Holder must produce proposals for adequate preconstruction baseline and post-construction surveys of fish populations in the area of the wind farm. The Licence Holder shall, in drawing up such proposals, canvas the views of local fishermen. The proposals must be submitted to the Licensing Authority at least one month prior to the proposed commencement of the monitoring work. (See also Annex 1 in relation to monitoring of electro-sensitive species).
- 9.8 The Fisheries Liaison Officer (see condition 9.13) shall pay due regard during the conduct of any fisheries survey to the need to safeguard the safety of any persons engaged in fishing operations on the site of the wind farm.

Ornithological Monitoring

- 9.9 Ornithological monitoring must be carried out as outlined in Annex 2 attached to this Schedule. The full specification for the monitoring programme will be subject to separate written agreement with the Licensing Authority following consultation with CEFAS and the Countryside Council for Wales prior to the proposed commencement of the monitoring work.

Post-construction monitoring must be undertaken annually for three years. The level of any subsequent ornithological monitoring, during the lifetime of the wind farm's operation, will be determined, in consultation with the Countryside Council for Wales, having regard to the magnitude of any change in bird populations observed during the initial monitoring period.

Cetaceans

- 9.10 During construction the Licence Holder must ensure that disturbance to the cetaceans is minimised, including temporary suspension of the commencement of individual piling operations if cetaceans are detected in the area.

Timing

- 9.11 See supplementary condition 9.1

Interference

- 9.12 The Licence Holder must ensure that a Notice to Mariners is issued at least 10 days prior to works commencing warning of the start date for the construction of the wind farm and the expected supply/construction vessel routes from the local service ports to the array. A second Notice to Mariners must be issued warning of the timing and

route of laying the submarine cable. These Notices to Mariners must be updated and reissued at appropriate intervals and supplemented by VHF radio broadcasts as deemed appropriate and agreed with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

- 9.13 The Licence Holder must ensure that a suitably qualified and experienced liaison officer or officers are appointed (for fisheries and environmental liaison) and the Licensing Authority notified before any work commences, to establish and maintain effective communications between the Licence Holder, contractors, fishermen, conservation groups and other users of the sea during the project.
- 9.14 The Licence Holder must ensure that information is made available and circulated in a timely manner through the liaison officer(s) to minimise interference with fishing operations and other users of the sea.
- 9.15 The Licence Holder must ensure that the liaison officer's environmental remit includes:
- § Monitoring compliance with the commitments made in the Environmental Statement and the Environmental Management Plan.
 - § Providing a central point of contact for the monitoring programme described in Annexes 1 and 2.
 - § Liaison with fishermen, conservation groups and other users of the sea concerning any amendments to the method statement and site environmental procedures.
 - § Inducting site personnel on site / works environmental policy and procedures.
- 9.16 The Licence Holder must submit a copy of a Project Environmental Management Plan for the approval of the Licensing Authority, in consultation with CEFAS and the Countryside Council for Wales, prior to the proposed commencement of construction work to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are in place for liaison on environmental issues (as such the plan should provide names and contact details for the environment liaison officer(s)). This must be submitted to the Licensing Authority at least 1 month prior to the proposed commencement of works.

Seabed Morphology and Scour

- 9.17 The licence holder must produce a scour protection plan and submit it for approval by the Licensing Authority at least 6 weeks before the start of the operation. The plan must address the need for scour protection, a rationale for the choice of scour protection, the type and grading of material to be used, the protection design and the full construction method statement

- 9.18 The Licence Holder must undertake a bathymetric survey within three months of completion of the construction of the wind farm to assess changes in the bathymetry within the array. Ideally this would cover the whole array but a sub-sample of adjacent turbines (minimum of 4) would be acceptable. The number of turbines selected for these works should be sufficient so as to be representative of the different sediment types present at the site (e.g. cohesive, mobile etc). The survey is to be undertaken immediately after construction is complete and repeated at 6 monthly intervals for a period of 3 years.
Should additional cable protection be required (e.g. rock armour) a separate Food and Environment Protection Act/Coast Protection Act consents application must be submitted
- 9.19 The Licence Holder must ensure that any debris or temporary works placed below MHWS are removed on completion of the works authorised by this Licence. (NB Drill cuttings, if drilled with water-based muds, can be left on the seabed within the area leased from the Crown Estate for the construction of the offshore wind farm to which this licence refers.
- 9.20 Licence Holder must undertake a pre-construction bottom and side-scan sonar survey in grid lines across the area of development (turbine array and cable route). Local fisherman must be invited at reasonable notice to send a representative to be present during the survey. All obstructions found on the sea bed must be plotted. A post construction survey must be undertaken along the same grid lines (within operational and safety constraints), any debris associated with the construction of the wind farm identified from these surveys or by other means must be removed at the Licence Holders expense.

General

- 9.21 All chemicals utilised in the drilling operation must be selected from the List of Notified Chemicals assessed for use by the offshore oil and gas industry under the Offshore Chemicals Regulations 2002 (this list can be viewed/downloaded at www.cefas.co.uk). Should any system other than a water-based mud be considered for use in the drilling operation written approval and guidance of disposal of any arisings will be required from the Licensing Authority.
- 9.22 The Licence Holder must ensure that any chemical agents placed within the void of the monopile, e.g. biocides, corrosion inhibitors etc, are selected from the List of Notified Chemicals (see condition 9.21). The use of any chemical not contained on this list will require prior consent from the Licensing Authority following a comparable ecotoxicological hazard/risk assessment undertaken at the Licence Holders own expense.
- 9.23 The Licence Holder must ensure that all protective coatings; paints etc used are suitable for use in the marine environment and, where necessary, are approved by the Health and Safety Executive.
- 9.24 The Licence Holder must ensure that storage, handling, transport and use of fuels, lubricants, chemicals etc during construction on vessels and equipment should prevent releases to the marine environment, i.e. bunding should be 10% total volume of all reservoirs, containers etc.

- 9.25 The Licence Holder must produce a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan for spills, collision incidents during construction and operation, and this must be adhered to. The Contingency Plan must have regard to plans for North Wales Coast, Liverpool Bay, Dee Estuary, Mersey Estuary & offshore installations. Practices used to refuel vessels at sea must conform to industry standards.
- 9.26 Directional drilling equipment should preferably be utilised for cable laying but, if this can be shown to be an inappropriate technique, the Licence Holder must ensure that all reasonable care is taken to minimise disturbance and resuspension of sea bed sediments.
- 9.27 The Licence Holder must ensure that all reasonable care is taken to prevent the accidental release of wet cement/grout into the marine environment.
- 9.28 The Licence Holder must ensure that the top layers of sediment are separated from the sub-surface sediments during works in the intertidal zone (where practicable) and replaced in the trench in the appropriate sequence to assist recolonisation of benthic organisms.
- 9.29 All the above conditions are also applicable to the meteorological masts (as appropriate) which must be considered as an integral part of the development.
- 9.30 In addition to the initial licence charge paid with the application (or application for extension) relating to this licence, the Licence Holder shall pay a further annual instalment of the licence charge in respect of the second period of twelve months of the licence (equivalent to the extension charge in force at the due date). Payment of the annual instalment shall be due and be made to the Licensing Authority 28 days prior to the anniversary of the original start date of this licence.
- 9.31 The licence shall be deemed to become invalid and shall be liable to be revoked in the event that the Licence Holder fails to make full payment of each annual instalment of the licence charge within a period of 28 days following the respective due date for payment.
- 9.32 The Licensing Authority reserves the right to seek a further variation charge in the event that the Licence Holder requests any significant change to the work or the working methods to which this licence applies, or to its terms and conditions. Should the Licence Holder seek to make changes to the terms and conditions of this licence or to the work to which it relates which in the opinion of the Licensing Authority will require it to be substantially re-assessed, the Licensing Authority may seek to revoke this licence and request a revised application.
- 9.33 The Licence Holder must provide access, and if necessary appropriate transportation at reasonable notice, to the disposal vessel/offshore construction site to facilitate any inspection that the Licensing Authority considers maybe necessary subject to meeting any mandatory health and safety obligations

- 9.34 In addition to the powers of variation or revocation set out in sections 8(10) and (11) of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985, the Licensing Authority may suspend this Licence if it appears to the Licensing Authority that there has been a breach of any of its provisions or if it appears to the Licensing Authority that this Licence ought to be suspended because of a change in circumstances relating to the marine environment, the living resources which it supports or human health or because of increased scientific knowledge relating to any of those matters or for any other reason that appears to the Licensing Authority to be relevant. Any such suspension may apply to some or all of the activities permitted by this Licence (as specified in the notice of suspension) and may be imposed either for a period of time specified in the notice of suspension or for an indefinite period until the Licensing Authority is satisfied that conditions specified in the notice of suspension have been met.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This page does not form part of this licence **31640/08/2** or its associated schedule but the licence holder is recommended to read the following guidance notes.

1. The granting of this licence **31640/08/2** does not absolve the Licence Holder from obtaining such other authorisations, consents and approvals which may be required under any other legislation, controls or regulations.
2. Under Section 8 of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985, the Licensing Authority may vary or revoke this Licence **31640/08/2** if it appears to the Authority that the Licence Holder is in breach of any conditions in it or for any other reason that appears to the Authority to be relevant.
3. A person who makes a deposit, or causes a deposit to be made, at sea in contravention of the conditions specified in this licence **31640/08/2** may be found guilty of an offence under Section 9(1) of the Food and Environment Protection Act. It is a defence under Section 9(3) of the Act for a person charged with such an offence to prove that the operation was carried out for the purpose of securing the safety of the vessel or of saving life ("force majeure") and that he/she took steps within 48 hours following the incident to send full details of the incident including those relating to the operation, the locality and the circumstances in which it took place and the substances or articles concerned, to the Licensing Authority (see paragraph 6 of the schedule).
4. If the works authorised by this Licence **31640/08/2** are unlikely to be completed by the expiry date of this licence, the Licence Holder should apply for a replacement licence at least 10 weeks prior to the expiry date of this Licence

THIS IS AN ANNEX TO THE SCHEDULE OF LICENCE 31640/08/2**MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

This Annex summarises the minimum physical and biological (excluding birds) monitoring requirements that must be undertaken to comply with the conditions of licence 31640/08/2. Full details of the proposed survey specifications to meet these requirements are to be set out in a separate report to be agreed by the Licensing Authority, in consultation with CEFAS and CCW, prior to the commencement of any survey works.

1. Suspended Sediment Concentrations (SSC)

This section has been left blank deliberately.

2. Seabed Morphology and Scour

(See licence conditions 9.17 and 9.18).

Monitoring of seabed morphology should include the cable route (both between the turbines and to shore) to assess sediment movements in relation to the cable burial depth and the long term integrity of the cable.

3. Current Monitoring

To monitor predictions made by the numerical current modelling conducted as part of the EIA for the Rhyl Flats offshore wind farm of a wake effect downstream of each monopile further investigation is required. Post construction Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) monitoring should be undertaken taking transects through the wake region. The results should be compared to the model outputs and discussed in the context of possible disruption to coastal processes. If changes in current velocity are significantly greater than predicted, then the consequences for the sediment transport regime will need to be re-evaluated.

4. Benthic Organisms

Sample locations for ongoing monitoring must be determined by factors such as precise monopile locations, location of cables etc. Sample locations must also take full account of factors such as sensitive areas, coastal processes modelling outputs (for sediment transport / deposition information) and geophysical surveys (to ensure adequate coverage of seabed habitats). In addition to the following samples should also be taken to adequately cover the extent and direction of the full tidal excursion. The number and location of the sample points needs to be submitted to the Licensing Authority along with a plan and rationale and agreed with CEFAS and CCW at least one month prior to the survey works commencing.

Indicative sample locations (based on a minimum of 23 sites (maximum of 35 sites) with 3 replicate grabs at each) would be:

- 5 sites (minimum) within the wind farm area, representing different habitat types and up / down drift conditions.
- 3 sites (minimum) within the near-field area of the monopile foundations to determine scour effects etc.
- 4 sites (minimum) to the south east of the wind farm within the area affected by sediment transport and deposition.
- 4 sites (minimum) to the north, north west, south west and south of the turbine array but within the tidal excursion
- 3 sites (minimum) along the cable route.

- 4 sites (minimum) nearby but remote from the wind farm (controls). NB. These should be outside the tidal excursion and be spaced at reasonable distances around the development area.

Colonisation of monopiles and scour protection must be determined by diver-operated video observations and analyses with some accompanying sample collection for verification and identification.

Intertidal invertebrate sampling must be undertaken at lower, mid and upper shore sampling stations along three transects running perpendicular to the shore in the area of the cable landfall. The precise details of the monitoring for the cable route and any reinstatement works are dependent on the methodologies used. The Licensing Holder must therefore provide the details of the methodology used for cable laying at least 2 months prior to works commencing so that recommendations on the benthos monitoring specifications can be made.

NB. The sedimentary and benthic data sets must be closely related and the resultant reports should include quality assurance, statistical analyses and full species lists.

5. Electromagnetic Fields

The Licence Holder must provide the Licensing Authority with information on attenuation of field strengths associated with the cables, shielding and burial described in the Method Statement and relate these to data from the RÆdsand wind farm studies in Denmark and any outputs from the COWRIE tendered studies in the UK. This is to provide reassurance that the cable shielding and burial depth(s), both between the turbines and along the route to shore, given the sediment type(s) at the Rhyl Flats site are sufficient to ensure that the electromagnetic field generated is negligible. Should this study show that the field strengths associated with the cables are sufficient to have a potentially detrimental effect on electrosensitive species, further biological monitoring to that described in section 5 may be required to further investigate the effect.

6. Marine Fish

(See also licence condition 9.7 in relation to fish populations).

The Environmental Impact Assessment observed electrosensitive species (e.g. Thornback Ray) both within and close to the Rhyl Flats site. In the absence of any evidence that electromagnetic fields do not pose a risk to such organisms, monitoring work is required to determine the numbers and distribution of such species in the vicinity of the Rhyl Flats offshore wind farm (this should include the establishment of a baseline and the use of adequate controls). The survey should make use of non-destructive techniques e.g. live traps and visual methods. The results should be presented and discussed in combination with the EMF studies described in the preceding section (5).

7. Noise and Vibration

(See licence condition 9.6).

Detailed post construction data must be collected on the frequency and magnitude of underwater noise produced by the Rhyl Flats offshore wind farm. The choice of sites for installing monitoring equipment should reflect the different conditions such as sediment type, water depth and pile type. This data is required for a variety of purposes, including:

- In combination with the biological aspects of the monitoring programme proposed in Annexes 1 and 2, the data would help to elucidate any interactions between noise generation and the provision of new habitat and fish aggregation effects of the turbine support structures.

- Determining the effects of distance depth and background sources on noise propagation.

----- This is the end of this Annex -----

ANNEX 2**ORNITHOLOGICAL MONITORING**

Monitoring will commence with a year of baseline, pre-construction data gathering and monitoring during the year of construction. Post-construction monitoring will be undertaken annually for three years. The level of subsequent monitoring, during the lifetime of the wind farm's operation, will be determined, in agreement with CCW, by the magnitude of change in bird populations observed in the initial monitoring period. The ornithological monitoring programme may have to be adapted and amended as new technologies and research findings become available.

Monitoring should be linked, where appropriate, with benthic monitoring.

Monitoring reports will be provided to CCW annually, or more frequently where the results of the data may trigger further monitoring work.

Monitoring will need to fulfil the following objectives:

- Determine whether there is change in bird use, measured by numbers and behaviour, of the wind farm site and a buffer to be specified.
- Determine whether there is a barrier effect to movement of birds through the site.
- Determine the distribution of common scoter and divers in Liverpool Bay, covering Rhyl Flats and the vicinity.
- If Objective 3 shows change in common scoter population in the vicinity of Rhyl Flats, monitor the benthos to determine whether the change is a result of change in common scoter food supply.
- If Objectives 1 or 2 reveal significant use of Rhyl Flats by populations of conservation concern, at heights that could incur a risk of collision, a programme of collision risk monitoring will be implemented.

Detailed study design is not presented at this stage as some uncertainties are the subject of research in progress. In addition, monitoring methods may change in response to novel research results or the development of new technologies.

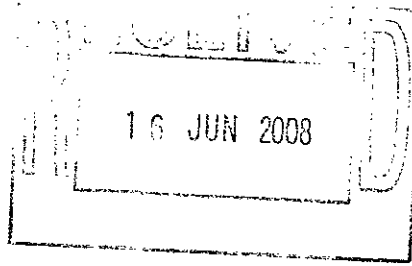
The Licence Holder and their consultants must develop a detailed design for this study in conjunction with the Countryside Council for Wales before monitoring can be undertaken.

----- This is the end of this Annex -----

Edwina Hart AM MBE

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/02838/08
Your ref:

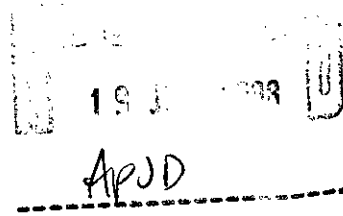


Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Val Lloyd AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
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Dear Val

12 June 2008

Thank you for your letter of 5 June 2008 requesting further information on the position regarding the revised arrangements for work permits for foreign nurses and care staff. I am happy to provide you with an update.

The newly formed Migration Advisory Committee met in January and will be meeting again this month. During the time of their last meeting and now they have been gathering information from a range of sources to help them identify the criteria that they will use to assist them in drawing up a shortage occupation list which will be used alongside the introduction of Tier 2 of the new Points-Based system for migration. Evidence has been received from a range of workforce data sources, Sector Skills Councils across the UK and through public consultation.

At the same time the UK Border Agency has been developing proposals for transitional arrangements prior to implementation of Tier 2 of the Points-Based system in the summer of 2008. These proposals have been informed by their Healthcare Sector Advisory Panel and have been passed back to that panel to comment upon. DH and Welsh Assembly officials have been part of the discussions along with the Care Sector Skills Councils of England and Wales and healthcare providers.

The current situation is that all current UK work permit holders are able to apply for extensions based on a valid certificate of employment and confirmation that the job is at or above NVQ level 3 or equivalent and is paid at the appropriate rate. The proposals from the Border Agency are building in flexibility to allow some criteria to be waived for existing permit holders.

The Borders Agency has identified permit holders who will require renewals, and are monitoring the extension applications and outcomes. This will identify if and when potential problems in any area are likely to occur.

The time for publication of guidance is late summer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'su', located below the text.

Edwina Hart AM MBE

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/02839/08

Your ref: PET-03-085



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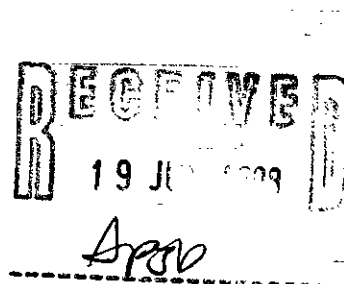
16 June 2008

New Val

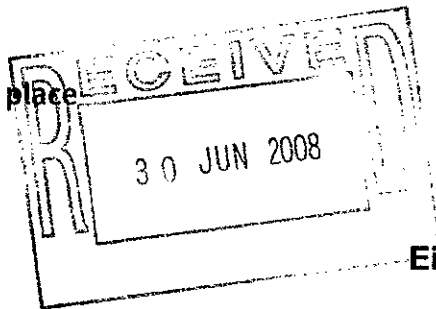
Thank you for your letter of 5th June on behalf of the Petitions Committee about surgeries in Flintshire (PET-03-085).

I can confirm that I will notify the Committee as soon as a final decision has been made about the viability of the proposal of a Primary Care Resource Centre being developed on adjacent land to Flint Community Hospital.

[Handwritten signature]



creu lle gwell
creating a better place



Asiantaeth yr
Amgylchedd Cymru
Environment
Agency Wales

Ms Val Lloyd
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
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Ein cyf/Our ref: 08 05 Lloyd V 23

Eich cyf/Your ref: PET-03-093

Dyddiad/Date: 23 June 2008



ASD

Dear Ms. Lloyd,

Re: PETITION - ABERTHAW POWER STATION

Thank you for your letter dated 6 June 2008, requesting further information with regard to this petition and, in particular, whether or not the Environment Agency could have imposed tighter controls on nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions from Aberthaw power station.

There are a number of techniques which can be applied to control releases of NO_x from coal-fired power stations such as Aberthaw. They broadly divide into those which affect combustion and act by reducing the formation of NO_x and those, such as Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR), which remove NO_x from the exhaust gas.

The design of the boiler at Aberthaw which enables it to burn coal similar to that found in Wales makes it difficult to use many of the combustion control techniques which may be used by other coal fired power stations in the UK. However, the pollution prevention and control (PPC) permit recently issued to Aberthaw requires the operator to use a technique known as Thermal Input Biasing (TIB) together with improved combustion controls. This is likely to reduce NO_x emissions per unit of electricity generated by about 10% and enable the emission limit requirements of the Large Combustion Plant Directive to be met from the beginning of this year (2008). We have also required the operator to carry out a further review of available techniques and report back to us by 31st October 2008.

The Large Combustion Plant Directive requires coal-fired power stations which continue in operation beyond the beginning of 2016 to meet emission limits equivalent to fitting SCR. However, because of the type of coal burnt at Aberthaw the Directive does not require these emission limits to be met at Aberthaw until the beginning of 2018.

cont'd....

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Llinell gwasanaethau cwsmeriaid: 08708 506 506
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Environment Agency Wales
Cambria House, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0TP
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Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
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YNGYBODAETH A MATHY FODD
KNOWLEDGE IN PRINCIPLE

In determining the PPC permit which was issued to the station in December 2007 we considered bringing forward the date by which SCR would be required. In making this decision we are required to take into account the costs and benefits of our action and in this case we came to the view that the likely national and local benefits to be gained from requiring SCR NO_x abatement at Aberthaw were outweighed significantly by the additional costs involved. If we had sought to impose these controls without adequate justification it is likely that any appeal would have been upheld.

We have also carried out site specific assessments of air quality for Aberthaw. Local air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide are currently being met around the station. Although predictions suggest this standard will continue to be met locally, we are enforcing the permit requirement for the operator to continue with ambient air monitoring in the community. This will also enable us to determine the level of improvements in sulphur dioxide concentrations arising from the flue gas de-sulphurisation project at the station. The local air quality benefits predicted for fitting full SCR abatement to Aberthaw power station (at an additional annualised cost of between £14-20 million per annum) would be a reduction of the long-term ambient nitrogen dioxide concentration from 35% to 28% of the air quality standard and from 72% to 25% of the short-term air quality standard.

We also considered the impact of NO_x releases on nearby wildlife sites, particularly those designated under the Habitats Directive. NO_x contributes to acid rain and may also act as a fertiliser on wildlife sites which are nutrient poor. These studies showed that releases of NO_x from the station generally contributed only a small fraction of the nitrogen deposited on the wildlife sites. For example, the assessments show that at Rhos Goch SAC, the worst impacted designated wildlife site of European significance, total nitrogen deposition from all sources is about 440% of the nutrient nitrogen critical load¹, of which about 55% is derived from agriculture, nearly 20% from transport, 6% from background sources and 3% from Aberthaw. Although Aberthaw may be the largest point source in the area, the majority of nitrogen deposition on local wildlife sites is derived from agriculture.

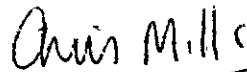
We, therefore, concluded that the limited improvements predicted in local air quality and reduction in nitrogen deposition at wildlife sites from bringing forward the installation of SCR at Aberthaw do not justify the significant additional costs.

I hope that I have provided sufficient information to enable you to conclude your consideration of this petition.

¹ The critical load is an estimate of the deposition of a pollutant below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or Graham Hillier, Area Manager South East, on 029 2024 5270 should you wish to discuss the matter in more detail.

Yours sincerely



CHRIS MILLS
DIRECTOR WALES

Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct dial 02920 466031

Ffacs uniongyrchol/Direct fax 02920 466417

E-bost uniongyrchol/Direct e-mail chris.mills@environment-agency.wales.gov.uk

cc: Graham Hillier, Area Manager South East
Gareth O'Shea, Environment Manager Eastern Valleys/Usk

Barry/Vale Friends of the Earth
Cyfeillion y Ddaear, y Barri a'r Fro
14 Robert Street, Barry CF63 3NX



Cyfeillion y Ddaear

Stefan Sanchez,
Committee Clerk,
Petitions Committee of the National Assembly.

24 June 2008

PETITION: Aberthaw Power Station ref. PET-03-093

Could I confirm my phone discussion with Alun Davidson that CCW have not been asked to comment on our petition, though when Jenny Randerson raised it at the 22 May meeting, Val Lloyd said they'd knocked that one on the head in the first meeting and that CCW had already commented on the petition.

Alun said there is nothing from CCW in your files.

I recall what we wrote on 21 April:

We wrote on 20 January 2008 that the UK will overshoot its limit on NOx from power stations, mentioning the Large Combustion Plant Directive, but it is in fact the Emissions Ceilings Directive.

We said that CCW (the Countryside Council for Wales) is well-informed on this and proposed that they be asked to give evidence to the Petitions Committee. I discussed it with the C'ttee officer, pointing out that

- # CCW disagreed with the EA over the Habitats Directive assessment and
- # it's only fair that they give their own arguments, avoiding any EA filter.

At the presentation to the Committee I repeated the request for CCW to give their view on the need and legalities of tighter controls on NOx (Transcript para. 110), but no-one referred to this in the discussion that followed.

We outlined the arguments in the <FoE response to MRS_Note 2May08.doc> so the MRS might be able to give a view on relevance of the second Directive (*National Emissions Ceilings Directive*) that they and the Committee did not pick up.

But our proposition is that CCW themselves be consulted on this issue.

Yours sincerely,
Max Wallis

Max Wallis <wallismk@cf.ac.uk>
Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth
Tel. 029 2021 0708 or 2087 6436

103

Jane Hutt AC/AM

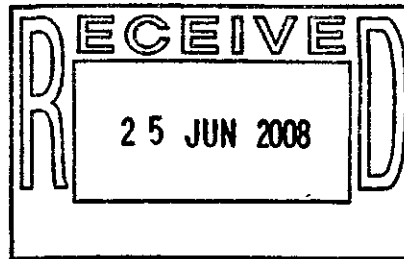
Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref Pet-03-103
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00850/08

Val Lloyd
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



ASD

4⁵ June 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter of 6 June, about the petition your Committee recently considered regarding Welsh medium secondary provision in the former Gwent area. You asked whether I would be considering issuing guidance to Local Authorities in relation to co-ordinating regional provision of Welsh medium secondary education.

Cross-county boundary collaboration between Local Education Authorities to tackle problems with provision is an important issue for the future of Welsh-medium education. This is particularly the case in rural areas and in areas where Welsh-medium schools are geographically distant from other Welsh-medium provision.

At present, Local Education Authorities have been encouraged to be proactive in assessing demand for Welsh-medium places and to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet that demand at primary and at secondary level. Collaboration across county boundaries is currently voluntary, and lack of collaborative forward planning may lead to the kind of problems that have been experienced recently with Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw in Gwent.

I agree that the issuing of guidance to Local Education Authorities on cross-county working is a matter that should be considered further, and, indeed, it is one of the issues that will be discussed and considered in the preparation of a national Welsh-medium Education Strategy under the One Wales commitments. This strategy is in preparation during 2008-09, and will then be subject to public consultation in the spring of 2009. Internal and external stakeholders will be consulted in the preparation of this strategy.

One of the actions that will be considered for the Implementation Programme accompanying the high-level Strategy is whether guidance to ensure effective cross-boundary working between LEAs would be appropriate and effective in order to improve opportunities for Welsh-medium learners.

Bert Hisher,

Jane

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Edwina Hart AM MBE
Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Our ref: EH/02840/08
Your ref:

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26 June 2008

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 5th June about the availability of the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test for men over 50.

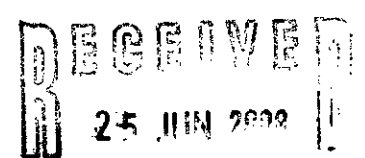
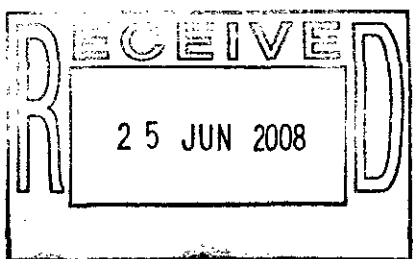
There is no restriction on access and a patient can ask their GP for the test. What is important is that men should make an informed choice concerning this test and the GP must give clear advice as the results are complex and must be interpreted properly so that the patient is able to make a properly informed choice. Access is not restricted but professionals must ensure that patients understand exactly what a test result can tell them.

All GPs in Wales have received an information pack to assist them in counselling men who enquire about the test. The pack is designed to provide information on the benefits and limitations of the PSA test. Further detail can be found at www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/prostate/pcrm-aim

In addition to this, guidance is also available to GPs in Wales via an online decision support tool for men who are considering taking a PSA test. This was developed by researchers at Cardiff, Swansea and Oxford Universities, funded by Cancer Research UK and Department of Health. This tool is available at www.prosdex.com/index_content

I have no plans to change or provide any new advice to GPs at this stage. If the National Screening Committee reviews its advice and amends its recommendation in respect of prostate cancer then I will consider that advice.

Edwina Hart



AGD

SWS

Edwina Hart AM MBE

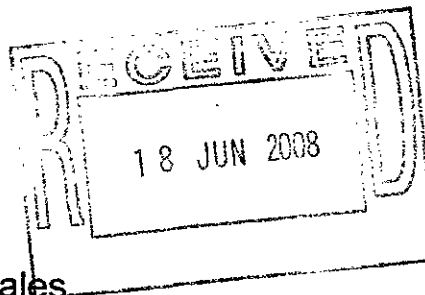
Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

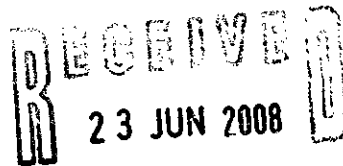
Our ref: EH/02806/08
Your ref:

Val Lloyd AM
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ARSD

17 June 2008

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of 3 June on behalf of the Assembly's Petitions Committee, about parking in the area surrounding University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.

My officials are currently scrutinising action plans from all NHS Trusts in Wales and will then meet Trusts to go through the plans. I will be advised on the adequacy or otherwise of the proposals they have put forward and Trusts will be instructed to revise any action plans that are thought to be inadequate. I will also be advised of any "over-arching" issues that may require my attention on an All-Wales basis. I expect this process to be completed by the end of July and I should be able to provide you with an update on the Cardiff and Vale situation at that time.

I am not aware of a policy that advocates "centralising" services at Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust. My aim is to provide services as locally as possible allowing ease of access wherever and whenever possible. There are situations, however, when certain more specialist services have to be provided on a more centralised basis for very good clinical reasons.

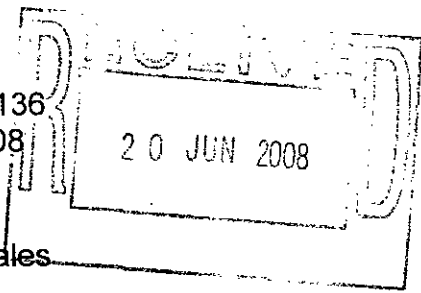
SWS

Jane Davidson AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-136
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/00716/08



Val Lloyd AM
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

23 JUN 2008
ASD

18 June 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter dated 3 June 2008 in which you seek my views on a request made by residents of Heath, Cardiff, in a Petition to the National Assembly for Wales that the Welsh Assembly Government consider, within the Assembly, the introduction of a system that would allow local groups to appeal to the Assembly when the council gives planning permission for a development which residents consider will exacerbate the problem of parking in the area.

Only the applicant or the local planning authority are main parties to an appeal and any other interested parties, which includes the local community, are classed as a "third party". Whilst the planning system gives "third parties" the opportunity to make representations to the planning authority before it takes its decision, it does not give "third parties" a right of appeal against the decision taken or non - determination.

The possibility of a third party right of appeal was referred to in the consultation paper "Planning : Delivering for Wales" in 2002. It was considered that any advantages from third party appeals would be outweighed by the effects on the operation of the planning system. It was also considered unnecessary to introduce them given the safeguards that already exist and the improvements to the planning system set out in the consultation document, and pursued under the "Planning : Delivering for Wales" programme for change. Many of these are currently being taken forward in partnership with local planning authorities and others.

I would add that the issue of third party rights of appeal has been the subject of discussion for quite some time and has featured in the responses to the consultation exercises carried out over the years throughout the UK in relation to the development control system. The various administrations, including the Welsh Assembly Government, have not sought to provide such a right of appeal as, in their opinions, no persuasive evidence has been produced to suggest that the introduction of a third party right of appeal would be a step forward or an improvement in the planning system.

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While there are no plans to revisit this aspect of planning law, the development control system in Wales is under constant review and I am prepared to consider changes to the system should the evidence suggest that this is necessary.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane', written over a circular stamp.

Jane Davidson AM

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing