

Jane Davidson AC/AM

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



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JD/01380/08

Val Lloyd
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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6 November 2008

Dear Val,

PETITION RHYL FLATS

Thank you for your letter dated 20 October 2008 informing me about the issue raised by the Petitions Committee's concerning the naming of proposed wind farm developments.

As you may know, the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is the consenting authority for proposed wind farm developments over 50MW capacity whereas those under 50MW capacity are determined by Local Planning Authorities. In respect of the latter, my officials advise that the naming and description of proposed developments is not something that the planning system can influence. These are very much matters for the developers.

In processing planning applications, local planning authorities must satisfy themselves that they have adequate information to determine the application and this would include accurate site maps and OS grid references so that the precise location of the development is made explicit. The name that a developer chooses to give to a proposed wind farm is not a matter over which the planning authority has any direct influence.

However, I would comment that the apparent confusion experienced on this occasion appears to be unique to the Rhyl Flats development and there is no evidence to suggest that the problem is systemic. Consequently, Assembly Government representations to the UK Government, other than through existing consultation procedures, would be inappropriate

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours,

Jane Davidson AM
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Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing