

ROCP 10, Dr Jonathan F Dean

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Adolygiad o flaenoriaethau'r Pwyllgor ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd | Review of the Committee's priorities for the Sixth Senedd

Ymateb gan Dr Jonathan F Dean | Evidence from Dr Jonathan F Dean

Your views

1. What are your views on the Committee's three strategic priorities: Climate Change; Sustainable Communities; and Protecting and enhancing the natural environment?

Ok in a broad sense, but we are now at a stage where we can add specific sub-heading.

Under climate change I would emphasise renewable energy, in particular getting the onshore and offshore balance right. Wales can easily reach net zero using ONLY offshore wind, yet all of the governments attention is on onshore wind which is less popular with the public and driving people into the arms of climate change deniers.

Under protecting the natural environment I would emphasise transmission infrastructure, as we are in danger of filling Wales with pylons when in reality none are required.

2. To what extent are the Committee's three strategic priorities still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

See answer to previous question. Broadly ok but more specificity is needed.

3. What are your view on the Committee's detailed priorities/outline programme of work for Years 3 to 5 of the Sixth Senedd (set out in its report, Priorities for the Sixth Senedd?)

Seems ok but desperately need to step up decarbonising heating. A decarbonised grid by 2035 is easy but getting people off gas central heating will be far, far harder.

4. To what extent are the Committee's detailed priorities/outline programme of work still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

Ok, but give attention to green power demand creations (heat pumps, EVs) rather than green power supply.

5. Are there any other matters related to the Committee's priorities/work programme/ways of working that you would like to comment on?

Siting strategy for nuclear smaller than 350 MW - this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get it right. Nuclear stations can be located almost anywhere, offshore wind can't - so to minimise investment in grid connections, site the SMRs near the demand, not in remote rural areas. This also gives the opportunity to use the waste heat (60% of thermal capacity) for district heating.

6. Other information

Offshore wind
SMR location
Heat pumps
EVs.
