

A Thomas Plant Hire Ltd
T/a ATP Cable Plough
Pencader
SA39 9BX

13 October 2023

Dear Mr Thomas,

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to cable ploughing.

The Committee considered several pieces of correspondence in relation to this matter in its meeting on 20 September.

In the first instance, the Committee has agreed to write to the Minister for Climate Change to enquire about the Welsh Government's current stance and consideration of cable-ploughing. The Committee has also agreed to seek further information from those parties who have recently corresponded with us on this matter.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you would provide the Committee with any detailed information you may have on the following:

Research on Technologies: You mentioned the importance of recognising technological advancements, especially when comparing cable ploughing to older methods like open trenching. Could you provide any research or studies highlighting these technological advancements, particularly cable-ploughing?

Comparative Costs: Your letter alluded to the potential similarities in costs between cable-ploughing and traditional methods involving pylons and overhead lines. We would be grateful for more detailed insights into the lifetime costs of projects, considering maintenance, energy transmission losses, and the wear and tear of infrastructure. We appreciate the issues of commercial confidentiality highlighted in your letter – we would reassure you that we would not publish such information without your agreement.

Comparative Carbon Footprints: The environmental impact is a significant concern for us. Can you point us towards data or findings that compare the carbon footprints of underground lines achieved through cable ploughing versus overhead lines?

International Collaboration: It is heartening to know that ATP Cable Plough operates in the UK and Europe. Could you share more about domestic and international projects that involve undergrounding by cable ploughing?

The Committee will consider its next steps once it has received correspondence from the Minister and further information from the various parties it has consulted. I must highlight, however, that given the Committee's current workload, it is unlikely to be able to conduct any work on this matter this side of Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.