



**RTPI Cymru**

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**e-mail response sent to: [YmatebionYnni-EnergyResponses@gov.wales](mailto:YmatebionYnni-EnergyResponses@gov.wales)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Response to: Review of Wales' renewable energy targets**

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 27,000 spatial planners. RTPI Cymru represents the RTPI in Wales, with 1,300 members. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of planning, working for the long-term common good and well-being of current and future generations. The RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development.

We welcome this consultation along with Welsh Government's ambition to increase renewable electricity targets. The planning system, if used effectively, can be part of the solution to major social, economic and environmental challenges, including responding to climate change. However, there are many challenges including resourcing.

The RTPI have long called for the proper resourcing of planning services. "It is widely recognised that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), along with the wider public sector, are struggling to meet expectations and unlock the value planning has to offer. LPAs in Wales have had significant reductions in the budgets to support their work, along with reduced resources to other public services." [RTPI | The Big Conversation](#) It is essential that the strain that the public sector is currently under is recognised in developing policy and target setting etc, so that achieving those targets and ambitions is realistic.

Sufficient resourcing of public bodies, investment in key skills and specialisms and an effective and efficient consenting process are all important aspects of meeting targets.

We note, “New demands for clean electricity from transport, buildings and industry mean electricity supply in Wales must double by 2050. In Wales, low-carbon electricity generation will shift from 27% now to 100% by 2035, cutting Welsh power sector emissions by more than 95%.”

[\(Net Zero Wales by 2050: Wales faces a decisive decade to get on track to an emissions-free future - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)\).](#)

We would expect planning applications for renewable energy projects and associated development over this period to increase and the resource, including specialisms, must be available within LPAs, Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to deal with the workload.

Prior to the introduction of Developments of National Significance (DNS), some energy related planning applications resulted in significantly higher fees than currently received as part of the DNS process. The higher fee, where appropriate could be used to buy in specialist advice, where this wasn't available in house. Access to specialist advice must be considered as part of the current system and as part of the wider, long term issue of resource.

We also understand that there have been instances where LPAs are so stretched that they have not had the resource to be able to enter into Planning Performance Agreements.

If you require further assistance, please contact RTPI Cymru on 020 7929 8197 or e-mail Roisin Willmott at [walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Dr Roisin Willmott OBE FRTPi  
**Director**