

(Energy Development)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 November 2016 10:50
To: National Infrastructure Consents
Subject: Re-determination of Llanbrynmair and Carnedd Wen windfarm applications - for the attention of the Energy Infrastructure Planning Team

Dear Sirs

With regard to the submission made by Conservation of Upland Powys on 15th August 2016. New evidence has just been published on the incidence of bat deaths caused by windfarms. We have been expecting this research and as it is of such importance and other UK research is so sparse we believe that it is essential that it is put before the Minister and the team who will be reaching their decision.

[http://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822\(16\)31188-5](http://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(16)31188-5)

Summary:

Demand for renewable energy is rising exponentially. While this has benefits in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, there may be costs to biodiversity [1]. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are the main tool used across the world to predict the overall positive and negative effects of renewable energy developments before planning consent is given, and the Ecological Impact Assessments (EclAs) within them assess their species-specific effects. Given that EIAs are undertaken globally, are extremely expensive, and are enshrined in legislation, their place in evidence-based decision making deserves evaluation. Here we assess how well EIAs of wind-farm developments protect bats. We found they do not predict the risks to bats accurately, and even in those cases where high risk was correctly identified, the mitigation deployed did not avert the risk. Given that the primary purpose of an EIA is to make planning decisions evidence-based, our results indicate that EIA mitigation strategies used to date have been ineffective in protecting bats. In the future, greater emphasis should be placed on assessing the actual impacts post-construction and on developing effective mitigation strategies.

Again, I apologise for submitting this so late in the day.

Chairman
Conservation of Upland Powys / Cadwriaeth Ucheldir Powys

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