

Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
c/o Mid-Wales Wind Farm Case Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning Team
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0ET

By email only to: beiseip@beis.gov.uk

1st October, 2018

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989: RE-DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY OF THE LLANBRYMAIR & CARNEDD
WEN WIND FARM PLANNING APPLICATIONS THE ELECTRICITY WORKS
(ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2000
("The 2000 Regulations") THE CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES
REGULATIONS 2017 ("The Habitats Regulations")**

Sir,

1. We have received a copy of your letter to Natural Resources Wales dated 6th September 2018 regarding the redetermination of Llanbrymair and Carnedd Wen Wind Farm Applications.
2. Montgomeryshire Against Pylons (MAP) is a community campaign group that was formed in 2011 to fight the controversial National Grid plc Mid-Wales Connection Project designed to export electricity generated by proposed wind farms at Carnedd Wen, Llanbrymair and other projects that were intended to feed into the proposed hub at Cefn Coch. MAP represents communities along the proposed pylon route from Cefn Coch to Lower Frankton and is a member of the Alliance, who represented local people at the Conjoined Public Inquiry (2013/14) into these two applications.
3. We fully endorse the detailed representations about the destruction of habitats and danger to raptor and other protected bird species made by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales in response to your letter to NRW and have no further comments on this topic.

4. However, we wish to make some additional points in support of our objection to these two projects.

While consideration of the Mid-Wales Connection Project was rejected by the Inspector at the Conjoined Public Inquiry, we strongly argued that the cumulative impact on the environment and ecology of such an enormous infrastructure project (including industrial wind energy installations and the 42km 400kv transmission line) should be taken into account, not least because of the damage to habitats and disruption to protected species such as bats, greater crested newts and other species along the giant pylon route.

5. A recent study by the University of Exeter, partially funded by the Government, found that 194 bats were killed every month on 29 wind farms. If extrapolated, 80,000 bats a year could be killed by onshore wind turbines. This figure is likely to be conservative as it does not account for bat corpses that would have been found by scavengers. (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/11/07/wind-farms-could-be-killing-80000-bats-a-year-new-study-finds/>)
6. The petition of over 7,600 signatures submitted by the County Times at the start of the Public Inquiry on June 4th, 2013 demonstrates the overwhelming opposition by local communities to these projects. Record objections to the Renewable Energy plans for installation of 600MW of wind energy in Powys County Council's LDP and subsequent removal of this proposal from the LDP is evidence of continued local opposition to industrial scale renewable energy projects. We submit that refusal of the Llanbrymair and Carnedd Wen applications should be made on the ground of the Westminster Government's commitment to localism.
7. We have recently responded to the Welsh Affairs Committee Inquiry into renewable energy. MAP supports local small-scale renewable energy projects that benefit local communities. The construction of large-scale wind and solar installations and necessary transmission infrastructure to England is neither cost effective nor sustainable in human or environmental terms.

Yours sincerely,

Montgomeryshire Against Pylons

Email: