

MYG - Note on the oral evidence of Mrs Kibble

At the issue specific hearing on 18th of March 2015, one member of the public, Mrs Kibble, raised a point in connection with the proposal's potential impact on tourism, citing the Welsh Government commissioned Study into the Potential Economic Impact of Windfarms and Associated Grid Infrastructure on the Welsh Tourism Sector (February 2014).

This study concluded that there is "little evidence of impact to date at a more local level, despite the presence of large windfarms in close proximity to tourism centres. While there were clearly challenges for consultees in accurately assessing the effects of windfarms on visitor numbers, the majority believe that there has been no impact to date. This view was held by most businesses, local authority and trade body consultees".

Mrs Kibble's concerns centred on paragraph 9.17 of the report, which said that "while most of the evidence points towards limited impact on tourism from windfarms, there are examples of certain locations which are, on balance, more sensitive to windfarm development...this is particularly the case where the key visitor markets are older people visiting for the tranquillity, remoteness and natural scenery offered in some parts of Wales. Remoter parts of Powys are the most notable examples of where this may be the case.'

Whilst this may be the case in some areas, it is unlikely to be the case in the context of a site used as a rally centre, including rally testing, and also target shooting, with relatively limited public access. It should also be noted that the rally centre is itself, through the events it hosts or co-hosts (such as the Welsh Government sponsored Wales Rally GB) one of the premier tourist draws in mid Wales.