



## Meeting Note

<b>File reference</b>	
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
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<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>RenewableUK</b>
<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>22 October 2012</b>
<b>Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)</b>	<b>Susannah Guest – Principal Case Manager Kathryn Powell – Senior Case Manager James Bunten – Assistant Case Officer</b>
<b>Attendees (RUK)</b>	<b>David Clubb - Director Matthew Williams – Policy and Research Officer</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate offices, Temple Quay House, Bristol</b>

<b>Meeting purpose</b>	<b>A meeting to discuss future planning regimes for Wales.</b>
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<b>Summary of key points discussed and advice given</b>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) advised on its openness policy, that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the planning portal website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).</p> <p>PINS provided a review of the PA 2008 regime including a summary of key thresholds for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). An update was provided on the implications of the Localism Act 2011, in particular noting the relevant Secretary of State as decision maker.</p> <p>RenewableUK then provided an overview of their expanded role in Wales, noted some NSIP cases that they were aware of and discussed the current political climate in Wales in respect of wind energy. They drew attention to documents/bodies such as the Silk Commission and the Environment and Sustainability Group.</p> <p>RenewableUK outlined their understanding of progress to date in the creation of the Single Environment Body for Wales (Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and the Forestry Commission for Wales). It was hoped that the move to a single body could assist the agency and its constituent parts in their role as Statutory Consultees.</p>
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	<p>The situation in Powys was discussed in respect to multiple applications under different regimes yet to be determined. PINS noted that a meeting had been attended by Welsh Government, Powys County Council, Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and PINS which covered legacy cases as well as anticipated PA 2008 cases.</p> <p>The Strategic Transport Management Plan for Powys schemes was noted. RenewableUK commented that a number of parties had been involved in its instigation and funding.</p> <p>PINS noted the potential for an appellant to request the Welsh Government to call-in an application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. RenewableUK commented that some Council members were perhaps reluctant to pursue this particular route because of the uncertainty in respect of Ministers' direction of travel on this policy area. The risk associated with requesting a call-in was suggested to be perhaps greater than costs and uncertainty of waiting for a local authority determination.</p> <p>It was confirmed that National Grid is a member of RenewableUK and that Welsh Assembly Members are visiting the North Wales National Grid proposals.</p> <p>PINS advised there are a number of wind farm developments ready to be submitted, which are perhaps being stalled until the decision for Brechfa is issued. There was discussion about Members watching the Brechfa process and awaiting the decision in 2013.</p>
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<b>Specific decisions/ follow up required?</b>	
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<b>Circulation List</b>	As per above list