

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol  
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P-CS-1474-16

Rhun Ap Iorwerth AM  
Assembly Member for Ynys Môn  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[rhun.apiorwerth@assembly.wales](mailto:rhun.apiorwerth@assembly.wales)

CC: Minister for Economy, Science and Transport

30 March 2016

Dear

I am writing as a follow up to your Oral Assembly Question of 9 March in relation to the Environment (Wales) Act.

To date I have not had any direct discussions with the National Grid with regard to the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty set out at section 6 of the Act. However, my officials will be meeting the National Grid to discuss the new biodiversity duty in the near future.

National Grid did respond to the Welsh Government's Environment Bill White Paper consultation in 2013, in which it indicated support for our proposals. Following Royal Assent of the Act on 21 March, I will be writing to all public authorities who will under a duty to comply with the section 6 duty. This includes the National Grid.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that I anticipate that statutory guidance on the section 6 duty will be issued to public authorities later this year to ensure that they are aware of their statutory requirements and our expectations on compliance with the duty. There is existing guidance on the current biodiversity duty contained in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, which public authorities will be aware of.

I should reiterate that responsibility for electricity grid infrastructure consenting lies with the UK Government and is planned and delivered by National Grid.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400  
[Correspondence.Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Correspondence.Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Energy policy in relation to large scale energy projects in relation to Wales rests within the portfolio of the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport and we continue to liaise with the UK Government on this matter.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS', written in a cursive style.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol  
Minister for Natural Resources