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Andrew Davies AM/AC
Minister for Economic Development & Transport
Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Our ref/Ein cyf: MB/AD/0896/04
Your ref/Eich cyf:

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Dear Janet

9 November 2004

Plenary debate 19 October 2004

Thank you for the response you made to my statement in the above debate.

Your first question concerned the 'green energy' used by Welsh Assembly Government buildings. At present 100% of electricity used by Cathays Park and Cardiff Bay is from renewable sources. Overall renewable energy accounts for 70% of energy use across the whole estate. This renewable or 'green energy' for Cathays Park and Cardiff Bay is purchased from 'British Energy'. They describe 'green energy' as : energy derived from renewable sources, which does not produce (or produces significantly less) CO2 to provide a cleaner sustainable alternative to the burning of fossil fuels. The energy sources that they provide are all British-based and consist of hydro-electric, solar, wind, biomass and landfill gas. For your additional information biomass is sometimes termed 'brown energy' since biomass burning does produce CO2, but it does not contribute significantly to overall CO2 emissions because an equivalent amount of CO2 is absorbed during biomass growth.

In response to your more general query on the amount renewable energy produced -this very much depends upon the scale and the deployment of each respective technology.

With regard to nuclear consents, powers under the Electricity Act 1989 would be required (these powers cover actual generation, overhead lines and deemed planning consent). The powers are not vested in the Welsh Assembly Government but in Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). However they are currently the subject of discussions about a possible transfer of functions. At present the DTI would decide the power generation applications in Wales although the Welsh Assembly Government would be consulted. However the Welsh Assembly Government is not a statutory



consultee, and an Assembly Government objection would **not** trigger a local public inquiry, while an objection from a local authority **would** automatically trigger one.

In addition, there are numerous other consents which are needed through the local authority, Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive as well as the Nuclear Radiation Protection Board (NRPB). These latter consents are primarily environmental and safety orientated.

As I stated during the debate, the Welsh Assembly Government does not support the development of any new nuclear power stations - we shall continue to actively pursue both energy efficiency and renewable energy options.

I hope this response answers your specific concerns.

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Andrew