

Julie James AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ87542

Adam Price MS  
Member of the Senedd for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr  
37 Wind Street  
Ammanford  
SA18 3DN

2 May 2023

Dear Adam,

Thank you for your Written Question tabled on 21 February 2023. Apologies for not responding by the deadline. Please find below a substantive response, a copy of which will be published on the internet.

**Written Question: What discussions has the Government had with Bute Energy or Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd in relation to the proposed new electricity transmission line from Nant Mithil and along the Tywi Valley? (WQ87542)**

I met with Bute Energy on 24 January when they provided an overview of their plans including the proposed electricity line.

I set out that the Welsh Government is contributing to the development of a plan for properly planned and optimised grid across Wales, working with UK Government and others. I have stated that infrastructure proposals must be strategic, efficient and require community acceptance. National Planning policy sets the framework for how we expect new energy infrastructure to be taken forward. This includes our policies in relation to engagement with the public and communities that could be impacted.

The electricity grid in Wales is not fit for the future. Its widespread constraints mean it cannot support the uptake of low carbon technologies nor the connection of renewable projects. I will use the levers within my control to set an enabling environment for renewables and energy network developments while protecting against unacceptable harms. I also believe there is a need for wider reform to the way our energy system is planned for, delivered and regulated across Great Britain to support an affordable, timely and equitable pathway to net zero.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales)

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.

I am clear in my expectations of developers who choose to operate in Wales, in particular that Wales should secure social and economic benefits from renewable energy developments alongside the environmental benefits afforded by clean energy generation. With regard to overhead cables, our position is clearly set out in our national planning policy [here](#). We expect developers to involve people in projects they are developing and to listen to and act on their concerns. I trust you will make clear the need for a resilient, affordable and fair supply of energy as you support your constituents to participate in the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change