

Rebecca Evans MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

7 October 2024

Dear Rebecca,

Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Great British Energy Bill

You will be aware that the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Great British Energy Bill has been referred to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee (the Committee) for consideration with a reporting deadline of 15 November 2024.

The Committee considered the LCM at its meeting on 3 October 2024 and agreed I should write to you to seek further information to inform our work.

At the time the LCM was laid, the Welsh Government acknowledged there is overlap between the aims and operation of Great British Energy (GBE) and Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru. It added:

"given the high-level strategic approach of this Bill and information available currently on GBE in general, it is difficult to determine what the impact may be in terms of the operational application of GBE as a company and potential conflicts of competition with Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru or other aspects of Welsh Government energy delivery functions."

1. What consideration have you given to the potential duplication of functions of GBE and Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru, and how is this influencing your decision on whether to recommend the Senedd gives consent to the provisions in the Bill?
2. Do you have any concerns that the operation of GBE will impact on the ability of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru to deliver its aims successfully?



3. What consideration have you given to how the interplay between GBE and Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru will be managed in practice?

4. Are there any circumstances under which you would seek to deliver projects in Wales through GBE and, if so, what would the criteria for doing so be?

According to the LCM, the UK Government intends for GBE to be able to provide support to “local authorities and community groups through a variety of mechanisms including but not limited to equity, loans, grants, insurance, and guarantees”.

4. Can you clarify whether there is any potential overlap between the remit, aims and operation of GBE and those of Ynni Cymru, the Welsh Energy Service and Community Energy Wales?

The LCM states the Welsh Government is supportive of the Bill and GBE in general “but are seeking further engagement with UK Government on the role of Welsh Ministers and the Senedd with the Bill”.

5. Can you provide an update on any such engagement?

Clause 5 of the Bill (Strategic priorities and plans) provides that the Secretary of State must prepare a statement of strategic priorities for GBE. Before making a statement, the Secretary of State must consult with the Welsh Ministers to the extent that the statement concerns subject matters within the Senedd’s legislative competence.

Clause 5(7) provides that the duty to consult may be satisfied by consultation carried out before the Act comes into force.

6. To what extent do you consider it appropriate for the Secretary of State to be required to consult the Welsh Ministers, rather than to seek the consent of the Welsh Ministers for any strategic priorities concerning devolved matters?

7. What involvement have you had in discussions on the proposed strategic priorities for GBE thus far?

8. What role will the Senedd have in scrutinising the statement before it is made if it concerns subject matters within the Senedd’s legislative competence?

Given the timescale the Committee is working towards to report on the LCM, I should be grateful for a response as soon as possible, and by 21 October 2024 at the latest.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.