



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/294/2024

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

21 October 2024

Dear Llyr,

Thank you for your letter of 7 October regarding the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Great British Energy Bill. I have addressed each of your questions below (please note I have kept the original numbering for ease).

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?

I will respond to questions 1 and 2 together.

We have had positive discussions on partnership working between Great British Energy (GBE) and delivery bodies in Wales including Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru.

As Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru is so much more advanced than Great British Energy, we see opportunities to increase the scope of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru's operation by working collaboratively with the UK Government.

I consider the operation of GBE as an opportunity to support the delivery of the objectives of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru. We have provided the UKG with information about potential opportunities to bring forward further opportunities in Wales. Discussions are at early stages.

This week we have seen further development in terms of how GBE will work with the Crown Estate in Scotland and build on discussions which have already taken place in Wales in relation to Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru.

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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.

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

This will be the detail which will be considered in the coming weeks. I do not consider the Bill as presented to limit opportunities. However, in my view clarification on the role of Welsh Ministers is crucial to ensure this interplay works as efficient as possible.

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?

These are discussions which are ongoing. Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru was established to deliver projects for the benefit of Wales and partnership working with Great British Energy must retain that principle.

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?

I do not consider there is an overlap. Ynni Cymru, Welsh Government Energy Service and Community Energy Wales are organisations and programmes that can all support the delivery of projects in Wales through partnership working with Great British Energy.

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

My officials will continue having regular engagement with officials in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Those discussions have been on potential partnership opportunities between Great British Energy and delivery bodies in Wales.

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?

It is essential that devolved responsibilities are properly reflected in the governance of GBE, and we are continuing to discuss how best to ensure that can be achieved.

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

Through our discussions on partnership opportunities, we have sought to influence the proposed strategic priorities to align with activity already underway in Wales. We expect continued discussions on the strategic priorities for Great British Energy as part of our partnership working.

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?

As currently drafted, the statement is not subject to any specific legislative scrutiny upon the preparation of the statement by UK Government, beyond scrutiny through the passage of the Bill.

I would also like to inform the Committee that I have recently written to Minister Shanks highlighting my concerns about the current GBE Bill.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio