

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-RE-2541-25

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Senedd Cymru
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Mike Hedges MS
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

17 October 2025

Dear Llyr and Mike,

Thank you for the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee (CCEI) and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee (LJCC) reports on the Legislative Consent Memorandums for the Planning and Infrastructure Bill. Both committees remain concerned about the process for NSIPs in Wales. The CCEI is concerned that the Welsh SIPs are not aligned with NSIP Bill provisions, and the LJCC is concerned about the practical effects on Welsh public bodies and the public. I wrote to you on 11 August and 5 September regarding the NSIP Bill provisions.

To confirm, both the SIP process and the NSIP Bill provisions have been designed to deliver timely decisions on large scale infrastructure projects. In order for both consenting regimes to operate efficiently, it is essential that when development proposals are submitted they can proceed to examination with the right information, informed by early engagement and consultation with stakeholders.

Whilst the SIP regime and the NSIP Bill provisions adopt different approaches to pre-application procedures, they are both underpinned by the need for applicants to undertake early, meaningful and proportionate engagement with relevant stakeholders in order to increase the likelihood of a smooth, efficient examination process. Relevant stakeholders will include Local Planning Authorities, bodies such as Natural Resources Wales, and the public. These stakeholders are currently engaged and will remain engaged with both systems.

The consultation paper on streamlining infrastructure planning, issued by the UK Government, emphasises the importance of pre-application engagement. The consultation states that the NSIP regime would function on the basis of a front-loaded approach in which development proposals are thoroughly scoped and refined prior to being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The consultation paper seeks views on whether guidance and other

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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.

documents would be useful in supporting applicants and stakeholders at pre-application stage.

Meaningful and constructive early engagement and consultation with stakeholders will be critical to enable applicants to produce quality development proposals that can proceed to examination. I note that the UK Government consultation is open until 27 October 2025. It provides an opportunity for interested parties to submit views on the pre-application proposals.

It is in this context that I am content to support this provision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

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