

Royal Town Planning Institute
Cymru (RTPI Cymru)
PO Box 2465
Cardiff
CF23 0DS
Tel +44 (0)29 2047 3923
email walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk
Website: www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_cymru

20 November 2015

e-mail response sent: Ruth.Hatton@assembly.wales

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to: Draft (Wales) Bill

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 23,000 spatial planners. RTPI Cymru represents the RTPI in Wales, with 1,100 members. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of spatial planning for the benefit of the public. As well as promoting spatial planning, the RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above draft Bill.

The response has been formed drawing on the expertise of the RTPI Cymru Policy and Research Forum which includes a cross section of planning practitioners from the private and public sectors and academia from across Wales.

Our interest lies primarily with the devolving of responsibility for energy to the National Assembly for Wales. RTPI Cymru believes that decisions on nationally significant renewable energy projects should be devolved to Wales, as they are in Scotland and Northern Ireland. We are therefore pleased with the provisions set out in the Draft Bill to devolve responsibility to the National Assembly for Wales for energy consenting up to 350MW, however we believe the Bill should go further by devolving all energy decisions to the Welsh Government. This would facilitate the ability to deliver a comprehensive renewable energy strategy in Wales and would bring Wales in line with Scotland and Northern Ireland. In line with this position we do not support the alignment of associated development with energy consents over 350MW and these should remain with the National Assembly for Wales.

If you require further assistance, have any queries or require clarification of any points made, please contact RTPI Cymru on 029 2047 3923 or e-mail Roisin Willmott at walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,



Dr Roisin Willmott MRTPI

Director
RTPI Cymru