

Mrs Claire Dugdale

Dear Sirs,

I write with regards the petition to be heard on the 28th February, regarding noise from wind turbines, specifically those at Alltwalis in Carmarthenshire.

I live approximately 1.5km from the wind turbines at the above site. I moved to my farm in June 2011, and so was totally aware of the 10 turbines in existence, all of which are visible from my property. My husband and I came with no preconceptions about wind turbines, if you'd of asked us what we thought about them, we would have held neither a negative or positive view about them, they were there and so we just had to get used to them- or so we thought.

As we are renovating our farmhouse, we have slept in every room in the house at somepoint in the last 8 months. In our first few weeks here, I started to complain at night about being able to hear an engine running constantly, and found myself getting out of bed to look for the car or tractor that I thought was intruding on our land. I then thought it was our new fridge, the electricity meter box, the water heater...all with no result. I could hear this noise almost every night when I went to bed, and I would spend at least 30 minutes after lights out trying to work out what it was that I could hear.

It was only on one hot, still night in late summer, that my husband told me to open the window, and listen. We could both hear the thudding pulsing noise of the blades turning. Quite a novelty to start with, as we were surprised that we could hear them at all. We began spending more time outside once our sheep arrived in August 2011, and hence became more and more aware of this thud, along with the humming, engine noise that I then realised was the noise I had been hearing at night.

The noise changes depending on which way the wind is blowing, and how much atmospheric pressure there is. At times, we have opened our front door only to be "hit" by this noise, it has been so loud. When out in the fields, it is almost frightening when everything else around you is so quiet, to hear this industrial, slightly surreal thudding and whooshing.

I am in no doubt that my sleep has been affected by this noise. I grew up next to a dual-carriageway, under an MOD flight path, and next to an abattoir, and yet none of these things has ever disturbed my sleep in such a manner. Once you are "tuned in" to the noise, there is no escaping it, and my husband has remarked how my description of it is similar to what he experiences from his tinnitus.

In the next month, we will be lambing here, and are dreading how much noise we are going to have to endure whilst we are either out in the fields, or trying to rest in between shifts. We can also only begin to imagine how much of a negative impact the proposed developments surrounding Alltwalis would have on our health, sleep, and enjoyment of this wonderful part of Wales.

It is not just noise we experience here either, at certain times of the day in certain weather conditions, we are subjected to light flicker from the turbines, both outside as we work, and also in all of the rooms at the front of our farmhouse. Again, this is something we would never have imagined having to endure when we moved here.

I would urge the committee to take a step back from the policies and guidance that relate to wind turbine noise, and listen to those who have to live with it, as they work and live in the area. We are still surprised by the amount of disturbance and noise caused by the turbines, and believe that many other people would be sceptical unless they had witnessed it for themselves.

Thank you for considering my submission,

Regards,

Mrs C Dugdale