



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Rachel Maclean MP

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Our reference: 22940021

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
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27 February 2023

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 30 November to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED], regarding onshore wind and planning. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay to your receiving a response.

I share [REDACTED] concerns regarding the cost of staying warm this winter, the effects of which we are all experiencing. I also note his support of amendments to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill relating to onshore wind. In response, I will set out steps the Department is taking to enable further deployment of onshore wind through proposed changes to national planning policy. We consider these proposed changes will help contribute to electricity bill savings and increase energy security in England.

As committed to in the written ministerial statement of 6 December by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (available here: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-12-06/hlws406>), we are now consulting on proposed changes to planning policy for onshore wind. These changes seek to deliver a more localist approach that provides local authorities more flexibility to respond to the views of their local communities.

The consultation also proposes changes to the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure that local authorities have a range of routes to demonstrate their support for certain areas within their boundaries as suitable sites for onshore wind—outside the existing requirement for onshore wind sites to be designated in the development plan, and along with proposed measures to support the repowering of onshore wind, in line with commitments made in the British Energy Security Strategy.

If [REDACTED] wishes to respond to the live consultation, it is open until 11:45pm on 2 March 2023 and is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy>.

Thank you again for your email. Please extend my thanks to [REDACTED]

for taking the time to write in on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

RACHEL MACLEAN MP