

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00725/23

Jonty Colchester
Chair
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

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28 April 2023

Dear Jonty,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March, concerning the proposed gas peaking plant at Hirwaun Industrial Estate in south Wales.

Welsh Minsters were not the decision makers in the planning authorisation of the power plant in question as consenting powers for energy plant up to 350MW were only devolved in 2017. The Hirwaun Power station was granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) by the then Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in 2015. Welsh Ministers dealt with a non-material amendment to the DCO in 2017, which concerned a minor change relating to the timing of bat mitigation measures.

You can view further details of the DCO here: [Hirwaun Power Station | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/hirwaun-power-station/)

Where the Welsh Government is called to decide on future proposals to build unabated power generation in Wales, it is the intent of Welsh Ministers to maintain a strong presumption against new fossil-fuelled power plant, nor to replace our current fleet of plant with alternatives which may themselves be the source of greenhouse gas emissions. This presumption will also have the effect of discouraging local decision makers from consenting new small-scale fossil-fuelled plant.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AS/MS
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Minister for Climate Change

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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.