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Dear Minister,

**RE: DNS Concerns**

Over the last few months, it has become apparent to everyone that the Developments of National Significance (DNS) planning process is not fit for purpose.

Through official channels and private conversations with senior staff within PEDW, CPRW have been told that they simply cannot cope with the unprecedented number of applications before them, due to lack of resources needed to adequately process, scrutinise or summarise applications.

Moreover, Local Authorities are now publicly expressing their frustration with the short time frames, level of applications, timing of consultations, lack of resources, and level of public awareness regarding the situation.

We have also been made aware that on active DNS applications, that Community Councils, another statutory consultee, have not been consulted. Additionally, Members of the Senedd have expressed frustrations that they are not a statutory consultee, and often only discover DNS applications in their area because we have contacted them about it.

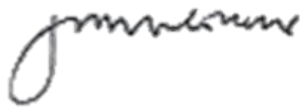
Now, Natural Resources Wales have also admitted that they do not have adequate resources to carry out their duties towards DNS applications in a timely manner, as reported by [Nation Cymru](#), Sunday, 17 September 2023.

We therefore ask that you pause the DNS system and conduct a thorough review of the system, this is surely the only feasible course to take to ensure rigour and due diligence of the application process.



With the new Infrastructure Bill looking likely to hand back responsibility for applications up to 50MW to Local Authorities, will you ensure that the necessary additional resources and training to councils is provided?

Yours Sincerely,



Jonty Colchester  
Chair  
CPRW

CC. All Welsh MPs and MSs

Blaenau Gwent council expresses anger and frustration with DNS system:  
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23768402.blaenau-gwent-council-annoyed-wind-turbine-plans/?ref=wa>

Planning system not-fit-for-purpose: <https://cprw.org.uk/welsh-government-planning-system-not-fit-for-purpose/>



**YDCW**  
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The Welsh Countryside Charity

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