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Independent Advisory Group on Future Electricity Grid for Wales meeting summary: 12 June 2024

Summary of meeting, 12 June 2024.

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The Independent Advisory Group on the Future Electricity Grid for Wales met on 12 June 2024. The meeting focused on the electricity grid in Wales, including its current state, future plans, and community engagement.

Introductions and Background

The meeting began with introductions and a background overview from Welsh Government's Energy Division, discussing the rationale for the group and outlining the current electricity grid in Wales.

Group Purpose and Workplan

The group discussed its purpose, workplan parameters, and the Terms of Reference (TOR) to guide their activities.

Evidence and Presenters

Members made initial suggestions for evidence to review and potential presenters, with an emphasis on gathering comprehensive data on grid infrastructure and its impacts.

Community and Regional Engagement

The group considered strategies for engaging with communities and regions, highlighting the importance of clear communication and public involvement in the planning process.

Electricity Demand and Policy

The discussion covered the future increase in electricity demand from the move away from fossil fuels, Welsh Government policies, and the need for a planned approach to ensure efficient and affordable electricity.

Current Grid Challenges

The group reviewed the current electricity networks in Wales, noting the scarcity of infrastructure in Mid Wales and the need for substantial investment throughout Wales.

National and Local Plans

Discussions included the National Energy Plan initiated by the Welsh Government and the importance of Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs).

Public Communication

The group highlighted the need for effective public communication to explain the necessity of new networks and minimize disruption concerns.

Concerns and Acceptability

Concerns about community acceptance and the importance of demonstrating direct benefits to communities were discussed.

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