



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P-LG-369117

Chief Planning Officers in Wales

25 October 2017

Dear Colleagues,

On 26 September I announced stretching targets for renewable energy which include Wales generating 70% of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030<sup>1</sup> to help to decarbonise our energy system. The ability to meet our needs from clean energy is the foundation for a prosperous low carbon economy, this in turn, means moving away from continued fossil fuel extraction. Therefore I wish to provide further clarity on our position regarding on-shore unconventional oil and gas and coal extraction in the planning system.

As part of our precautionary approach, two Notification Directions have been issued in respect of unconventional oil and gas extraction. Both Directions require the referral of applications to Welsh Ministers, where local Planning Authorities are minded not to refuse them.

With a view to supporting our decarbonisation pathway established in the Environment Act 2016, and to give effect to the Welsh Government's manifesto commitment on fracking, I intend to consult on the appropriateness or otherwise of amendments to planning policy and whether planning policy should no longer be supportive of the following forms of fossil fuel extraction - unconventional oil and gas extraction, including shale gas or coal bed methane extraction and underground coal gasification; the extraction of coal.

I will be consulting on appropriate amendments to *Planning Policy Wales* as part of my forthcoming review.

Yours sincerely  
Lesley Griffiths

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

<sup>1</sup> <http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2017/energy/?lang=en>