



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP
Secretary of State

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Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair of the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London
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22nd May 2024

Dear Greg,

Announcement on large-scale nuclear market engagement and the Wylfa site

Delivering nuclear power in the UK is one of this Government's top priorities as we seek to achieve net zero by 2050 and deliver up to 24 Gigawatts (GW) of nuclear capacity over the next quarter century.

In January, this Government published the Civil Nuclear Roadmap which represented the biggest expansion of nuclear power for 70 years. It set out our ambition for 25% of our power to come from nuclear by 2050.

Since then, the Government has been powering on to deliver the Roadmap commitments. We have launched the next phase of the Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Technology Selection Process, with bidders having until June to submit tenders; announced support to a multi-year programme of work to boost nuclear skills in the UK; and announced £196m of support for a high-tech nuclear fuel facility in the North West. We intend to take a final investment decision on Sizewell C (SZC) before the end of this Parliament.

I am proud that this Government is delivering on its commitments and this statement outlines progress on another of our key commitments: to explore a further large-scale nuclear project.

At the Spring Budget, the Chancellor also announced that Great British Nuclear (GBN) had reached agreement with Hitachi to acquire the Wylfa (Anglesey / Ynys Mon) and Oldbury-on-Severn (Gloucestershire) nuclear sites.

Today my Department has published a Prior Information Notice (PIN), exploring building a further large-scale nuclear power station, similar in scale to Hinkley in Somerset and Sizewell in Suffolk. As part of the PIN the Government has indicated its initial preference is that any such nuclear project should be located at Wylfa. Sitting on the North Wales coast, Wylfa is ideally suited to host a large-scale nuclear project given its proximity to water and nuclear heritage. This announcement has the potential to bring thousands of jobs and investment to the area, boosting the local economy.

This PIN invites interest from all potential large-scale vendors to engage with the Department as it carries out market engagement and build an understanding of the capacity of the sector to support large-scale project ambitions. The Department will use

the information gathered to inform future policy on large-scale nuclear development in the UK. This is an important step in signalling the Government's intent, and while it is not compulsory for potential vendors to express an interest at this stage, we would encourage all with an interest to do so.

Importantly, I am clear that this announcement does not in any way seek to predetermine outcomes of the ongoing SMR Technology Selection Process, and that indicating the initial preferred use of Wylfa should not preclude access to sufficient site capacity for future SMR requirements.

These developments will be an important part of our future plans to provide future energy security and meet our net zero targets. I am confident this news will be welcomed by both the nuclear sector as well as the people of Wales and the wider UK, who expect to benefit from energy infrastructure and the associated jobs.

A Written Ministerial Statement has been presented in the Parliament today to cover this announcement.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Coutinho', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

RT HON CLAIRE COUTINHO MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero