



**Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero**

Michael Shanks MP
Minister for Energy

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Baroness Sheehan
Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee
House of Lords
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10th March 2025

Dear Baroness Sheehan,

I am writing to inform you that on Monday 10 March, a statutory instrument was laid in Parliament to reintroduce onshore wind projects over 100MW in England to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime and raise the current NSIP threshold for solar projects from 50MW to 100MW. This will ensure that projects are determined through the appropriate planning route, reflective of their scale, impact and complexity.

An effective planning system is key to unlocking the new infrastructure the country needs to underpin our energy security and resilience. Planning plays a vital role in ensuring that development proposals are in the right place at the right time, with potential impacts assessed and mitigated as necessary. These changes will help incentivise deployment and support the government's 2030 clean power mission.

For onshore wind in particular, this is another important step in reversing the de facto ban in England, putting it on the same footing as other types of infrastructure, such as nuclear power stations and offshore wind.

Best wishes,

Michael Shanks MP
Minister for Energy