

Letter from the Prime Minister to the Chair regarding Nuclear energy in Wales

Des Stoker,

Thank you for your email of 3 March on behalf of the Welsh Affairs Committee, regarding Nuclear energy in Wales. I apologise for the delayed response.

Wales is a thriving part of the UK and I was pleased to announce the creation of two new Freeports on my recent visit to Anglesey. These sites will target billions of pounds of investment in the hydrogen and green energy sectors, alongside creating thousands of jobs.

It is essential that the UK has greater energy resilience and security. Alongside Freeports, Great British Nuclear, the establishment of which was announced in the British Energy Security Strategy (BESS), forms part of the Government's commitment towards realising this ambition. As stated in the Spring Budget, we want to facilitate investment in the UK's energy system through launching Great British Nuclear, which will support new nuclear builds. I am pleased that the first task of this pivotal organisation will be to run a new competition to find the best SMR technologies for development in the UK.

I recognise the importance of ensuring that Great British Nuclear is fully representative of, and accessible to, the entire country. As such, energy projects need to be situated throughout our island nation. Wales has a talented and skilled workforce, with universities and businesses that deliver innovative research and economic growth. As you will know, Wylfa was identified in the BESS as a potential location for a nuclear project. It remains a very strong candidate for both SMRs and gigawatt. I know that the establishment of such a site, whether at Wylfa or elsewhere in Wales, will boost job creation and contribute to the UK's reputation as a leader in renewable energy. I welcome the strong support for nuclear energy across Wales and want to assure you of the UK Government's commitment to ensuring that Wales' potential in this area is not lost.

I have shared your correspondence with the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero and the Secretary of State for Wales and asked them to follow up on this matter with you.

Thank you, once again, for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely,
Rishi Sunak

(28 April 2023)