

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol  
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-619  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01269/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

1 September 2015

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 5 August asking for my views on comments made in response to a petition relating to “localism in planning and compensation for third parties re: infrastructure projects (P-04-619)” and the petitioner’s response to my letter dated 13 May addressed to your Committee.

### Economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being

The principle of sustainable development has been set out in planning legislation since the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The passing of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 strengthens this framework to ensure that the development and use of land contributes towards sustainable development by improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. We anticipate commencing those provisions in both Acts in 2016.

### Consultation

My full proposals as to how pre-application community consultation requirements and local impact reports are to be dealt with are contained in my ‘Frontloading of the Development Management System’ and ‘Developments of National Significance’ consultation papers. Links to those papers are contained below. I will be publishing the Government’s response to these consultations shortly.

<http://gov.wales/consultations/planning/frontloading-the-development-management-system/?lang=en>

<http://gov.wales/consultations/planning/developments-of-national-significance/?lang=en>

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400  
Correspondence: Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
*Printed on 100% recycled paper*

## Compensation

As I previously mentioned, the impact of major infrastructure schemes on communities was raised during the scrutiny process of the Planning (Wales) Bill ("the Bill"). These amendments were considered and opposed by the Environment and Sustainability Committee, of which you are part. The petitioner will appreciate that I cannot account for the voting patterns and will of the Assembly.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 contains a series of provisions in relation to planning blight for the uncertainty arising from land allocated for development in development plans. No evidence was received to inform the Bill and during its scrutiny by the National Assembly for Wales to suggest that these provisions do not strike the right balance in enabling compensation where it is due while not discouraging investment in infrastructure in Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carl Sargeant'.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol  
Minister for Natural Resources