

THE MID WALES CO-JOINED INQUIRIES 2013

OUTLINE STATEMENT OF RUSSELL GEORGE AM

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR MONTGOMERYSHIRE

1. As the elected Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire, my fundamental aim is to defeat the six proposals being considered by the Secretary of State.
2. Additionally I am committed to defeat any consequential infrastructure that is necessitated or ancillary to those proposals.
3. As the elected Assembly Member, I will seek to represent the views of my constituents fairly, respectfully and proportionally.
4. I am committed to the principle that people and the places where they live matter.
5. Irrespective of issues of current need or planning policy, I am of the view that these proposals are of overwhelming harm, whether considered individually or cumulatively.
6. I believe that the report produced by the National Assembly Petitions Committee on Control of Noise from Wind Turbines¹ should be material considered by this inquiry because of the detrimental impact wind turbine noise has on human health.
7. I believe that the decision to be taken by the Secretary of State must respect the fundamental principles of localism that encapsulate a belief that people and communities must be heard when considering planning applications. The communities affected by these proposals almost universally oppose them being granted permission and government policy dictates that such views must be determinative in such matters, irrespective of need.
8. National planning policy on wind farms is clearly evolving with a growing political acceptance of a requirement for communities where they are proposed to be heard, and their views respected. Therefore it is inappropriate at the current time, with the application of the precautionary principle as required by recent European Courts of Justice decisions, for permission to be granted when policy is likely to be significantly revised.
9. The proposed locations where these proposals will be situated have highly complex and sensitive ecosystems and the impacts of the proposals will be long term, far reaching and of severity.

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<http://abms/documents/s8151/Control%20of%20noise%20nuisance%20from%20wind%20turbines%20May%202012.pdf>