

Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioners Office

Outline Statement

The concerns of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys relating to the development of wind farms in mid-Wales Police are set out below. These concerns are shared by the Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys Police Force.

Key concerns are

- Traffic management
- Policing of abnormal loads
- Disruption to roadways and access routes
- Increased crime and disorder
- Increased fear of crime and disorder
- Community unrest
- Protests
- Financial implications to the Force

Traffic management; Policing of abnormal loads; and Disruption to roadways and access routes.

Should developments proceed as proposed, there will be a considerable increase in the number of abnormal loads travelling through the Force area. This in turn would negatively impact the flow of traffic on local roadways resulting in adverse effects on communities and commuters.

In order to manage the above, considerable resource to coordinate, escort and oversee abnormal loads would be required.

Dyfed-Powys Police and relevant partners, both regional and local, would face considerable challenges in dealing with the potential increased volume of abnormal load escorts.

Increased crime and disorder; Increased fear of crime and disorder; Community unrest; and Protests.

There is a potential for an increase in crime levels locally. There is also a risk of disorder and disquiet amongst residents of the proposed site areas. The potential for public protest is growing. Emerging themes of disruption are evident and should not be underestimated. Previous experience of surrounding wind farm developments has included policing of civil protests. All such incidents greatly influence public perception of policing services.

The above issues place significant demands on policing and resources. These must be managed effectively to ensure community confidence is not impacted.

Financial implications to the Force

The cost of policing all of the above is considerable. To date, additional funding has not been provided by the Welsh Government to facilitate either the movement of loads or policing protests. As such, any related financial impact has been absorbed by the Force. Such expenditure must form part of the budget considerations of the Commissioner for the forthcoming years.

In light of the concerns set out within this statement, it is requested that the Inspector give consideration to ensuring the developers mitigate any future crime and disorder issues during the construction period and for a period after commissioning where such issues are still of relevance.

The Force must ensure that it has sufficient resilience and resources to mitigate and limit in policing and community safety terms any detrimental impact wind farm developments may have on the community. By the various developers contributing to the costs of policing and increasing visibility within the affected communities, the developers can mitigate any possible future crime issues that may arise. This in turn will benefit affected communities in the future. Such an agreement would assist in allaying many of the concerns from residents in relation to the development.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is requested that all of the above issues be given detailed consideration by the Inspector during the combined public inquiry of the wind farm developments throughout Mid-Wales.