

CHRISTINA REES MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Christina Rees MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Wales
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

2nd August 2017

Rt. Hon. Alun Cairns MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
1 Caspian Point
Caspian Way
Cardiff
CF10 4DQ

Dear Secretary of State,

It's nearly 9 months since the Hendry Review reported to Government and made a compelling case to proceed ASAP with Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon.

Having invested more than £50m to date, tidal lagoon investors might reasonably expect to see confirmation of the Government's position on the pathfinder project. Welsh industry and business is in a similar position, having spent several years preparing for this exciting opportunity.

Just recently, an independent poll found that 8 in 10 Welsh consumers are familiar with the project, with 7 in 10 are in favour of the project. I know from my own experience that the awareness and approval ratings are even higher among consumers in SW Wales.

The depth of cross-party support for the project is striking and by no means confined to Welsh Parliamentarians. So, with industry, consumers, Parliament and the Government's own independent review all overwhelmingly in favour of the project, I write to seek your commitment to stand up for Wales and marshal the project over the finishing line before investor confidence is eroded and this opportunity for Wales is lost.

The Queen's Speech may have been thin but it still managed to commit to the ideal backdrop for permitting Wales' tidal lagoon sector: working with devolved administrations to ensure prosperity outside the EU, an industrial strategy that spreads opportunity throughout the UK, backing infrastructure to support economic growth and backing new industries, action to reduce energy bills and the prioritisation of the Union.

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In addition to the direct impact on the tidal lagoon concept, failure to support this project will have consequences for the supply chain, local business, and the wider economic development of the Swansea Bay area. Indeed, the Tidal Lagoon features as a central component in the Swansea Bay City Region Deal. We have already seen the Government renege on one of their commitments to our region, rail electrification to Swansea – will the failure to deliver the Tidal Lagoon be the next example of a Government yet again failing to stand up for Wales?

I offer you every support in achieving this end and again ask that we meet at the earliest opportunity to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Christina Rees'.

Christina Rees MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Wales



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Richard Harrington MP

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Our ref: MCSL2017/20053

18 September 2017

Dear Christina,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 August to the Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP, in support of Swansea Bay tidal lagoon. Your letter has been passed to this Department for reply and I am doing so as this matter falls within my portfolio.

The issues considered by the Hendry review are complex as they relate to an untried technology in the marine environment.

In coming to any decision on the role of tidal lagoons in the UK's energy mix, the Government will need to consider how tidal lagoon power delivers against the Government's priorities for security of supply, low carbon generation and affordability. This will ensure that all future decisions made regarding tidal lagoon energy are in the best interests of the UK and represent value for money to the consumer.

With regard to your request to meet with the Secretary of State, I am sorry that he is unable to accept your invitation at the present time: as you will appreciate, his diary is heavily committed.

A Government response will be published in due course.

Richard Harrington

RICHARD HARRINGTON MP
Minister for Energy and Industry