

The Rt. Hon Greg Clark
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

3rd August 2017

Dear Dr Clark

Proposed Swansea Bay Lagoon

I write on behalf of Afonydd Cymru, a registered charity concerned with the wellbeing of the environment, fisheries and the rivers of Wales and the Marches. It will come as no surprise that we are very concerned with the current proposal as it has the potential to damage migratory fish species such as salmon, shad, lamprey, eels and sea trout.

The basis of our concern is the way in which this proposal has been carried forward on a wave of populist approval rather than on its merit as a scheme to generate green electricity. It is being considered in complete isolation from other less destructive and less costly alternatives that would optimise the use of tidal energy and, of course, other green energy sources such as off shore wind and storage.

We followed the Hendry review with a meeting with Charles himself and he pointed out that his brief was not to consider other schemes or any environmental considerations. Having sat on the 2008 – 2010 UK government investigation into tidal power, whilst heading the Wye and Usk Foundation, one of the subsequent recommendations was that there should be a full investigation into fish populations and any potential for damage. This was never done and as a result Tidal Lagoon Power are employing rather fanciful models in an attempt to convince Natural Resources Wales that the project is environmentally sound, which it certainly is not.

Mr Hendry recommended a pause between the completion of Swansea Lagoon and any further building but this was not for environmental reasons. The result is that there would, with existing proposals, be no checks or reversals if the likely damage to our EU listed migratory fish species took place (the first four species listed above) some of whose life stages are five years or more.

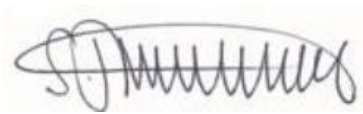
Government has quite rightly separated the need for investment in Swansea itself from the possible spin off from this project. Climate change and electricity demands can be addressed in the immediate future with existing technologies (off shore and onshore wind, solar and nuclear) and the irregularities of these with storage schemes. The risk of another infrastructure White Elephant looms large with

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Swansea Lagoon and other similar lagoon proposals. Tidal power technology is developing rapidly and this project could shut the door on that for good.

We therefore urge you to set aside the powerful, financially-led tidal lagoon power lobby's demands. Please give our tax and bill payers the green energy needed at a sensible price and, as government has already decided, fund Swansea's independently. Our sincere hope is that this very costly and destructive scheme will not go forward and our economically and environmentally important species will not be threatened.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Marsh-Smith', written in a cursive style.

Dr Stephen Marsh-Smith OBE
CEO Afonydd Cymru