

**HOUSE OF COMMONS
WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

For answer on: Wednesday 17 November 2010

Date answered: Wednesday 17 November 2010

DCLG Ref: 1729, 1730, 1731 & 1732 10/11 Party: **CON**

Andrea Leadsom (South Northamptonshire)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will bring forward proposals to require the Planning Inspectorate to refuse appeals from developers of wind farms when there is unanimous community opposition to the proposals. [24648]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will bring forward proposals to provide for planning for wind farms as part of the Localism Bill [24649]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will ensure that the views of local residents are taken into account when plans for the development of wind farms are proposed. [24650]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will bring forward proposals to require the developer of any wind farm to ensure the developed area is returned to its original state once the development has finished. [24651]

Mr Bob Neill

In reaching a decision on a planning appeal, a planning inspector will consider whether a proposed development is acceptable in terms of the local council's development plan and other considerations which can include national planning policy and relevant planning issues raised by local communities. The Planning Inspectorate has an important role to play as the arbiter of potential conflicts between the interests of individuals, or local communities, and the needs of the nation. It would therefore be inappropriate to direct the Planning Inspectorate to refuse a planning appeal solely because of community opposition because there may still be strong national or local policy support for a proposal.

We are not proposing to include any specific provisions in the Localism Bill on planning for wind farms. We will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning policy framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

There are requirements on local planning authorities to consult local communities and take their views into account when preparing development plan documents and planning applications must be publicised to allow representations to be made on the planning issues they raise. We will give local people and communities far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which they live by radically reforming the planning system.

Local planning authorities are able to attach conditions to a planning consent to require the restoration of a site as part of the decommissioning of a wind farm when it ceases to be operational.