May 2018

Dear David,

During the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport’s questions in plenary on 4 May he requested I write to you regarding the uptake of projects in relation to micro-hydro plants, due to my portfolio responsibilities.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of hydropower schemes in Wales over the recent years, largely linked to the introduction of subsidies such as Feed-in Tariffs. In 2016, there were 276 active hydropower schemes in Wales with a combined installed capacity of 163 MW. However, since then the increase in the number has slowed down, due largely to the reduction in the value of Feed-in Tariffs.

Since 2010 the Welsh Government has actively supported community renewables, including hydropower through a programme of support which offers grants, loans and development officer support. This has resulted in at least 10 community hydropower schemes being developed in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs