

**Policy Forum for Wales keynote seminar:  
The future of infrastructure planning in Wales**  
Timing: Morning, Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



*Draft agenda, subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Senedd
- 9.05 **Meeting longer-term economic and environmental infrastructure needs in Wales and next steps for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project reform**  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Priorities for addressing Wales' most pressing infrastructure development challenges**  
*Skills and resourcing issues | Obtaining consent | Overcoming the planning application backlog | Delivering system improvement*  
**Suzanne Crouch**, Construction Project Director, National Grid  
**Mike Simmons**, Development Manager, Major Projects and Planning Obligations, Pembrokeshire County Council  
Senior representative, skills  
Senior commentator
- 9.45 **Financing infrastructure projects and attracting investment in Wales**  
Senior representative, investment
- 9.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Senedd
- 10.25 Break
- 10.35 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Senedd
- 10.40 **Stakeholder perspectives on proposed reform**  
*Implications for stakeholders and the rollout of significant infrastructure projects | Priorities for streamlining the consenting process | Creating greater certainty for applicants | Moving towards delivering upon wider net zero ambitions*  
**Ben Burggraaf**, Chief Executive Officer, Net Zero Industry Wales  
**Ben Lewis**, Project Director, Bute Energy  
Senior representative, transport infrastructure  
Senior representative, legal  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.25 **Recent UK-wide reform to the national planning policy and implications for infrastructure projects in Wales**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Implications for the environment and communities**  
*Safeguarding environmental protection standards | Ensuring development and land use is in the public interest | Maintaining high levels of local authority and public engagement*  
**Eleri Davies**, Head of Onshore Development: Wales & England, RWE Renewables  
**Dr Jonathan F Dean**, Trustee, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW)  
Senior representative, environment  
Senior representative, legal  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **The current infrastructure consent process in Wales and the future of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects**  
**Victoria Robinson**, Chief Planning Inspector, Planning and Environment Decisions Wales  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Senedd  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Wales