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*Mary Creagh*

Thank you for your letter dated 27 May, enclosing correspondence from  
about the Renewable Energy  
Foundation (REF) analysis of the Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD). I  
apologise for the lengthy delay in my response.

The Government has been clear that onshore wind is an important part of our energy mix and we expect to need a total 11-13GW of onshore wind by 2020 in order to meet our EU renewables targets. There is currently around 7.8GW of onshore wind operational and a further 1.5GW under construction, which means we expect a further 1.7 - 3.7GW to be built between now and 2020.

New capacity may come from projects that are already consented, projects that are in the planning system or projects which have not yet gone into the planning system: there is currently 5.3GW with planning consent and 6.4GW in the process of applying for planning consent but we know that not everything in planning will get planning consent and not everything that is consented will be built. Under the new subsidy mechanism, Contracts for Difference (CfD), being introduced this year, projects will compete in auctions in order to secure a support contract. So increasingly only the best value projects will be taken forward, helping to drive down the costs of onshore wind and ensure good value for consumers. Which projects do get built will depend on a range of factors, such as planning permission, issues such as radar (which can prevent wind farms being built) and commercial decisions.

We have set out in the delivery plan how much renewable energy we expect to need by 2020 and there are policy levers within Energy Market Reform that we can use to secure appropriate deployment of any particular technology. For further information on how the government plans to develop our renewable generation, I would encourage your constituents to view our delivery plan at:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/268221/181213\\_2013\\_EMR\\_Delivery\\_Plan\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/268221/181213_2013_EMR_Delivery_Plan_FINAL.pdf).

The attrition rates vary over time, but on average (based on historical rates and trends) our models assume that around 50% of projects in the planning system receive consent and around 70% of consented projects are built.

For onshore wind we have set out our ambition for up to 13GW to be deployed to meet our 2020 renewable energy targets cost effectively. Given the deployment that is currently operational, consented, and in the planning pipeline, we remain on course to achieve this, without exceeding the Levy Control Framework (LCF) which sets annual limits on the overall cost of this Department's levy-funded policies.

Yours,



**EDWARD DAVEY**