

Letters to the Editor
The Pembrokeshire Herald
Milford Haven

FOR PUBLICATION

8 January 2025

Dear Letters Editor,

In his letter (20th December), L Jenkins criticised the payment of compensation to wind energy companies when the electricity they generate cannot be used because there is insufficient capacity available in national transmission lines. What he failed to mention is that these payments are also available to other companies and last year most, 76%, were made, not to wind farms, but to gas-fired power stations [1].

He also failed to mention that onshore wind farms deliver the cheapest power, closely followed by solar farms and offshore wind farms. Electricity from gas fired generation is three times more expensive. The latest Department of Energy figures cost onshore wind at £38/MWh and gas (e.g. Pembroke power station) at £114/MW [2].

He also failed to mention that the cost of electricity is dictated by the price of gas, even though wind energy is far cheaper [3]. The scrapping of this outdated and unfair pricing system would reduce electricity bills for everyone.

Last year, wind energy generated 26% of UK electricity, just behind gas at 28%. This year, as more wind generated electricity comes online, it is expected to be the single largest source of electricity in the UK. It is one of the main reasons why electricity generation in the UK is now cleaner than ever

Far from being “the greatest con of the 21st century”, wind energy is a vital tool in cutting both climate changing emissions and electricity bills.

Yours sincerely

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1. <https://www.regen.co.uk/toxic-constraint-coverage-could-damage-clean-power-plan/>
2. UK Government Department for Energy - Electricity Generation Costs 2023 (Page 25)
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6556027d046ed400148b99fe/electricity-generation-costs-2023.pdf>

3. Why Does the Price of Gas Drive Electricity Prices Including Renewables <https://www.goodenergy.co.uk/blog/why-does-the-price-of-gas-drive-electricity-prices/>