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## Planning and Financial Incentives are Not Obstacles to Wind Power Development

REF letter to the Guardian, 1 May 2009

Dr John Constable, Director of Policy and Research, and Dr Lee Moroney, Planning Director, have today published a letter in the Comment pages of the *Guardian*:

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	Ditlev Engle of Vestas, the Danish wind turbine maker, blames UK nimbys and lack of government support for the dif- ficulties facing his industry (Closure of wind turbine factory, 29 April). How- ever, according to data published by the British Wind Energy Association, there is some 7,000MW (roughly 3,000 turbines' worth) consented but unbuilt, much of this onshore. This represents more than 200% of all the wind capac- ity ever built in the UK. As for a lack of public support, the renewables obliga- tion already, and before the budget's increases were announced, provided a top-up of approximately £52/MWh generated. In fact, subsidy accounts for 50% of the income stream of a renew- able generator, costing the consumer over fibn a year at present. If the wind industry is facing problems, these do not appear to be undue obstacles in planting or weak economic incentives. <b>Dr John Constable</b> <b>Dr Lee More</b>
	Renewable Energy Foundation

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