1. Introduction

- Government has set new tariff levels for solar PV installations from 3 March 2012, and introduced a new energy efficiency requirement for solar PV installations from 1 April 2012. We have also created a multi site PV tariff for organisations operating more than 25 PV installations. All these changes have been consulted on publicly. Full details can be found here.

- Further changes to future tariffs for solar PV installations were made on 24 May (details here). These decision included changes to tariffs for solar PV effective 1 August 2012 and for the cost control measure to take effect from 1 November 2012.

- The Government decision on tariffs for non-PV technologies and other issues was announced on 17 July (full details here). The decision includes tariff levels, provision for community projects and preliminary accreditation with tariff guarantees to be effective from 1 December 2012. It also confirms the cost control mechanism for the non-PV technologies which will take effect from 1 April 2014.
2. Changes to FITs 1 August 2012

What changes are being made to FITs for solar PV?

- Details of a number of changes to FITs for new solar PV installations from 1 August 2012 are set out in the Government response to the Phase 2A consultation on solar PV cost control, available here.

- This announced the following changes for new solar PV installations with eligibility dates on or after 1 August 2012:
  - reduced generation tariffs starting at 16p/kWh for the smallest installations (up to 4kW)
  - an increase in the tariff for exported electricity to 4.5p/kWh
  - a reduction in the tariff lifetime to 20 years
  - retention of RPI index-linking of generation and export tariffs
  - the generation tariff for multiple installations (more than 25) to be set at 90% of standard generation tariff
  - the tariff for installations that do not meet the energy efficiency requirement to be the same as the stand-alone rate (7.1p/kWh from 1 August)
  - a ‘contingent degression’ mechanism whereby tariffs for new installations would potentially be changed every 3 months (starting on 1 November), depending on the level of deployment

I am an existing generator, will I be affected by the changes to FITs for solar PV when the changes are made?

- No.

- The changes made to the FITs scheme will only apply to new solar PV installations with eligibility dates on or after 1 August 2012. (Note that the eligibility date is the date a valid application for FITs is received by the FITs Licensee, likely to be after the commissioning date. Further information is below.)
What is the decision on the tariff for electricity not used on site but exported to the grid?

- The export tariff will be 4.5p/kW for all new PV installations with eligibility dates on or after 1 August 2012.

- The export tariff for PV installations with eligibility dates before this will not change from the current 3.2p/kWh.

Are export tariffs increasing for other technologies as well?

- Yes.

- The new export tariff of 4.5p / kWh will apply to all new PV installations from 1 August 2012. The export tariff for existing installations will not be changed.

- For the non-PV technologies, the same new export tariff will be applicable for installations with an eligibility date on or after 1 December 2012.

Will tariffs continue to be index-linked?

- Yes, both the generation and export tariffs will continue to be linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI).

- For solar PV installations with eligibility dates between 1 April and 31 October 2012, tariffs will be changed in accordance with RPI from 1 April 2013.

- For all installations with eligibility dates between 1 November 2012 and 31 March 2013, tariffs will be changed in accordance with RPI from 1 April 2014. The same approach will apply in future years.
How will the new degression (i.e. tariff reduction) mechanism for solar PV work in practice?

- DECC will publish statistics each month showing the deployment of solar PV in each degression band in the previous month. This will be in the new ‘MCS and ROO-FIT Pipeline Statistics’ table, which will be first published on the DECC FITs Statistics web pages on 24 July 2012.

- Before the end of every August, November, February, and May, Ofgem will publish tariffs for new solar PV installations with eligibility dates from the following 1 November, 1 February, 1 May, and 1 August respectively. The tariffs will be published on the Ofgem FITs Scheme Tariff Tables web pages.

- These tariffs will be based on the deployment in each degression band in the previous three months, as set out in the table below (Table 3 of the Government response to the Phase 2A consultation on solar PV cost control.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tariff point</th>
<th>Max deployment in 3-month period (MW)</th>
<th>Degree of degression (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-10kW</td>
<td>10-50kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point 1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point 2</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point 3</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point 4</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point 5</td>
<td>&gt;300</td>
<td>&gt;200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Tariffs will be published at least two months before the start of each three-monthly degression period.
**When will degression for solar PV occur?**

- Degression (i.e. tariff reductions) for new solar PV installations will occur every three months starting 1 November 2012, depending on how much PV has been deployed.

- This means new tariffs will be effective from 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November each year for new solar PV installations with eligibility dates on or after those dates.

- The following table explains this process:

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>2013 Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deployment in this period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sets tariffs for this period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Deployment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | *
| Tariffs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | *
```

Inspired by the excellent degression calendar produced by [at http://www.caerdelyn.co.uk/blogg/fits-degression-calendar/](http://www.caerdelyn.co.uk/blogg/fits-degression-calendar/)

**How often will solar tariffs be reduced under the new control mechanism?**

- Tariffs for new installations will be reduced on a three-monthly basis, if there has been sufficient deployment to trigger a tariff change

- The new tariffs will only apply to new installations with an eligibility date on or after the changes are made.

**Will the tariff for my installation be reduced after it has been accredited for FITs?**

- No.

- Once an installation has been accredited for FITs, it will receive the tariff that was determined at the time of accreditation for the entire tariff lifetime, subject to RPI-indexation.
I am thinking of installing solar PV. How soon will I be able to find out what the tariffs will be for the next degression period?

- New tariffs for each degression period will be published by Ofgem two months in advance of tariff changes.

- Generators thinking of installing solar PV will therefore know the tariffs up to 5 months in advance, if they are planning to install at the end of a three-month period.

- The new tariff tables will be published at [www.ofgem.gov.uk/fits](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/fits)

Where can I find information on deployment?

- Deployment statistics can be found at [www.bit.ly/FITSTATS](http://www.bit.ly/FITSTATS). Tariff reductions will be based on the new monthly ‘MCS and ROO-FIT Pipeline Statistics’ table, which will first be published on 24 July 2012.

- Every August, November, February, and May, DECC will also publish the determination of solar PV deployment in each degression band over the previous three months, which will be used to calculate the tariffs for the following three month period. This information will be published at [www.decc.gov.uk/fits](http://www.decc.gov.uk/fits).
3. Changes to FITs 1 December 2012

What changes are being made to FITs for the non-PV technologies?

- Details of the changes to FITs for the non-PV technologies effective 1 December 2012 are set out in the Government response to the Phase 2B consultation available here.
- The decision includes:
  - Changes to tariffs for all the non-PV technologies effective 1 December 2012
  - Preliminary accreditation with tariff guarantees for all ROO-FIT technologies (i.e. all hydro and AD; wind larger than 50kW), and for community solar projects below 50kW.
  - A degression mechanism for the non-PV technologies (with the exception of mCHP) which will become effective from 1 April 2014.
  - A definition for community energy projects with a system of tariff guarantees
  - An exemption from meeting the energy efficiency requirements of EPC Level D or above for solar PV community and school installations
What are the new tariffs for the non-PV technologies?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Band (kW)</th>
<th>Current generation tariffs (p/kWh)</th>
<th>Consultation tariffs from Oct 2012 (p/kWh, 2012 prices)</th>
<th>Final tariffs from 1 Dec 2012 (p/kWh, 2012 prices)</th>
<th>Community energy tariff (see explanation in paragraphs 148-151)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hydro</td>
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<td>21.9</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>21.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>19.6</td>
<td>19.7&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>19.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;100-500</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>12.1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&gt;2000-5000</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.5 (2.2 from April 2013)</td>
<td>4.48&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4.48&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
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<td>21.0</td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>21.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;1.5-15</td>
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<td>21.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>25.4</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>21.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;100-500</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>17.50</td>
<td>17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;500-1500</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;1500-5000</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.5 (4.1 from April 2013)</td>
<td>4.48&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4.48&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD</td>
<td>•250</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>14.70</td>
<td>14.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;250-500</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>13.7&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>13.60</td>
<td>13.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;500-5000</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.96</td>
<td>8.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>microCHP</td>
<td>•2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>12.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> 2012-13 tariffs in consultation calculated using previous RPI inflator to that used by Ofgem in determining final tariffs, hence slight discrepancies

<sup>2</sup> Current and consultation tariffs are shown to one decimal place as published. Final tariffs from December 2012 are shown to two decimal places for consistency with tariffs published in ‘Government Response to consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 2A: Solar PV cost control’

<sup>3</sup> Tariffs for the largest wind and hydro bands from April 2013 will be adjusted if necessary to reflect changes to level of RO support as a result of RO Banding Review.
4. Degression - Effective 1 April 2014

How will the degression mechanism work in practice for the non PV technologies?

- Degression will occur on an annual basis on 1 April each year for wind, hydro and AD installations
- A baseline degression of 5% will apply each year. This will be adjusted according to deployment in the previous year, with a minimum degression of 2.5% annually should uptake be lower than expected, and a maximum of 20% should uptake be higher than expected.
- The mechanism will also allow for an additional degression step should deployment in the first 6 months of the year significantly exceed expectations. A six-monthly degression will only occur only if more than a whole year’s ‘expected’ deployment has occurred in the first half of a calendar year, but not otherwise.

Will there be any exemption to degression for the non PV technologies?

- Baseline degression and long-term reduction of subsidy was clearly set out in the consultation as a policy for all technologies, and all tariffs (including PV) will be subject to one degression step each year (with potentially more than one for solar, as set out in DECC’s response to the phase 2A consultation).

When will the degression mechanism for the non-PV technologies come into effect?

- The degression mechanism for the non-PV technologies (excluding micro CHP) will come into effect from 1 April 2014.

Why is the micro CHP tariff not subject to degression?

- Micro CHP cost control is managed in a different way. Once 12,000 micro CHP installations have been completed we will review the level of support for this technology to apply after the first 30,000 installations.
5. Preliminary Accreditation - 1 December 2012

To which technologies will preliminary accreditation apply?

- Preliminary accreditation will apply to all installations accredited through the ROO-FIT process.
- That is, it will apply to all AD and hydro installations and wind and solar PV installations over 50kW.

What are the conditions for preliminary accreditation?

- To be eligible for preliminary accreditation, the proposed installation must have:
  - Planning approval,
  - Evidence of acceptance of a firm grid connection offer, and;
  - for hydro stations, the necessary environment approvals.
- Tariff guarantees will apply for a fixed period from application for preliminary accreditation. These will be:
  - Six months for PV,
  - One year for AD and wind; and,
  - Two years for hydro.
- Tariff lifetimes will still apply from the installation’s commissioning date.

Who will be responsible for determining preliminary accreditation?

- Application for preliminary accreditation will be performed by Ofgem who administer the FITs scheme.

Can I alter my installation once preliminary accreditation is granted?

- Yes, an installation for which preliminary accreditation is received may be amended and still be valid in some limited circumstances.
- However, an installation for which preliminary accreditation was received will become invalid if it doesn’t have a valid planning permit or has a change of capacity, technology or site.
My installation will not be commissioned before the end of the preliminary accreditation period, can I reapply for preliminary accreditation?

- Yes. There is no limit on the number of times a prospective generator can reapply for preliminary accreditation for an installation once the previous one expires.
- However, the application will be considered as a new application which will be subject to the requirements and process in place when the application is made - including the tariff.

Can I withdraw from preliminary accreditation?

Yes.

What provisions have been made for community schemes?

- A number of provisions will be introduced to support community energy projects. These include:
  - To create a definition of “community projects” that includes a range of small scale not-for-profit enterprises
  - To exempt schools, further education colleges and projects by community organisations on non-domestic buildings from meeting the minimum requirement of Level D to receive the standard tariff.
  - To facilitate greater access to FITs for community energy projects, recognising that the evidence from stakeholders is that their problems relate to upfront barriers rather than long term financing.
  - To put in place a system of tariff guarantees, similar to preliminary accreditation, during the development phase for community PV projects

What defines a ‘community energy’ project for the purposes of FITs?

- A FIT ‘community energy’ project is one in which the generation or export is carried out by:
  1) a community interest company;
  2) a co-operative society; or
  3) a community benefit society.

- In addition, the eligible entities must have no more than 50 employees

What documentation would be needed to prove status as a community scheme?

- They must have evidence that they are registered as a CIC on the Companies House register, or co-operatives or community benefit societies registered on the Financial Services Authority (FSA) Mutuals Public Register.
Will there be a special tariff for community groups?

- No special tariffs will be assigned to community installations at the moment.
7. Energy Efficiency Requirements

What is the energy efficiency requirement?

• The energy efficiency requirement applies to PV installations with eligibility dates on or after 1 April 2012. (N.B. The eligibility date is the date on which your FIT Licensee receives your valid application for FITs. It will therefore be after the date on which your solar panels are installed.)

• Under the requirement, PV installations will only be eligible for standard FIT tariffs if they can provide a valid Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) at the time of application for FITs, showing a rating of level D or above for the property to which the solar panels are attached or wired to provide electricity.

Installations that do not meet the requirement will receive a lower tariff which is currently 9p/kWh and will be reduced to 7.10p/kWh on 1 August.

Do I have to pay for an EPC certificate? If so, how much?

• If you do not already have a valid certificate, you will need to obtain one before applying for FITs. They typically cost under £100 for dwellings.

• This page on Direct Gov explains how to get an EPC. There may be additional costs involved in improving the energy performance of your property to EPC level D.

• EPCs are typically valid for 10 years, and are required for most buildings on sale, rental, or when built, so you may already have a valid EPC for your property.

I have a Display Energy Certificate (DEC). Is this enough?

• No – only an EPC showing level D or above is acceptable. EPCs and DECrs provide information about different aspects of energy performance, and are not interchangeable.

Can I install Solar PV to get a level D certificate then apply for FITs?
In some cases this may be possible. However, you should be aware that if you decide to install solar PV on a building that has a rating lower than D and a subsequent EPC assessment shows that the solar PV installation has not improved the rating of the building to a level of D, you will be unable to obtain the standard tariffs without undertaking further improvements to the energy performance of your property and obtaining another EPC assessment.

This is because a generator must be able to provide as part of their application for FITs an EPC certificate showing a rating of level D or above for the building to which the solar PV installation is attached or wired to provide electricity.

**Do I have to commission an EPC survey before installing PV?**

- If you do not have a valid EPC for the building on which you intend to install or wire to your solar PV, you should obtain one in order to identify the current energy performance and EPC rating of your building and any cost-effective measures you can install to improve the rating of your building.

- If the EPC shows that your property is not currently at level D or above, you will need to install measures to improve the energy performance of your property and obtain a new EPC certificate showing a rating of level D or above before you apply for FITs.

**Can my PV installer carry out an EPC assessment?**

- The assessment can be carried out by an installer if they meet all the qualification and accreditation requirements under the terms of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2007 (for England and Wales) or are members of an Approved Organisation (in Scotland).
If I make improvements to my home after installing PV and applying for FITs, can I resubmit the EPC and get an uplift in the tariff?

- No. Generators who cannot demonstrate that they meet the energy efficiency requirement at the time they apply for FITs will only be eligible for a lower tariff for the duration of the tariff lifetime. Paragraph 32 of the Phase 1 response document explains this policy.

What if the generator doesn’t provide an EPC with their FITs application?

- If no EPC has been received by the time the application is processed, the generator will receive the lower tariff which is currently 9p/kWh.
What if the generator doesn’t provide an EPC with their FITs application, but after a few weeks completes the assessment?

- The application for FITs needs to include a EPC certificate level D or higher otherwise the tariff will be set at the lower rate. EPC certificates cannot be submitted late even if the property is improved.
- You could check with your FIT licensee whether they have processed your original application for FITs. If they haven’t, you could withdraw it and submit a new application accompanied by the EPC certificate.

Does the EPC rating requirement apply to non domestic properties too?  
What about farmers and barns?

- The requirement for EPC level D applies in respect of both domestic and non-domestic buildings. There are limited exceptions – see paragraph 33 and 34 of the Phase 1 response document.

What’s happening about EPCs for Holiday Lets?

- The requirement for EPC level D applies in respect of both domestic and non-domestic buildings and includes holiday lets. There are limited exceptions – see paragraph 33 and 34 of the Phase 1 response document.

What if I find out the EPC was incorrect after applying for FITs?

- Only qualified assessors are able to undertake assessments of buildings and provide EPCs based on standard methodology and guidance. Therefore, there should not be an issue of an EPC being incorrect in the first place.
- If an EPC is found to be incorrect because it has been deliberately fabricated, that would constitute fraud which would need to be investigated by the FITs supplier or Ofgem. If fraud was found to have taken place then appropriate steps would be taken, potentially including reducing the tariff for which a PV installation is eligible. The issuing energy assessor’s EPC accreditation scheme operator will be notified in such instances.
Does the energy efficiency requirement apply in respect of non-domestic as well as domestic buildings?

- Yes. As confirmed in the Government’s decision document published on 9 February following last autumn’s consultation on FITs for solar PV, the requirement applies in relation to both domestic and non-domestic buildings.

Are there any exemptions for non-domestic buildings from meeting the EPC requirements for FITs?

- Yes. With the announcement from the Phase 2B consultation, the decision was made to remove the energy efficiency requirement of EPC Level D or above for community projects, schools and further education colleges.
- This will be effective from 1 December 2012.
- However, an EPC certificate must still be submitted as part of the application to demonstrate that energy efficiency was considered as part of the project.

I want to install solar PV on my church, does this mean the installation will now be exempt from the EPC requirement.

- The exemption from the EPC requirements will only be applicable to “community energy” projects as defined above.
Are there any other circumstances in which an installation could be eligible for the standard solar PV tariffs without needing to meet the energy efficiency requirements?

- The only other circumstance where an installation can be eligible for the standard solar PV tariffs without meeting the energy efficiency requirement is where a generator can demonstrate that it is not possible to obtain an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for a building that the installation is attached or wired to provide electricity to.

- The instances in which this “exemption” applies are expected to be limited. This is because:
  
  i. it should be possible to obtain an EPC for any building that meets the definition of building set out in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (it is important to note that this includes buildings which are not currently required under that Directive to have an EPC when sold, let or built); and

  ii. in many cases we expect that solar PV installations which are attached to a building for which it is not possible to obtain an EPC, will nonetheless be wired to provide electricity to a building that is able to obtain an EPC. For example, this might include a solar PV installation attached to a barn that is also wired to provide electricity to a farmhouse. In this example, the requirement would still apply and could be met if an EPC were provided demonstrating that the farmhouse was rated at EPC level D or above.

- Because of this, application of the “exemption” will need to be considered on a case by case basis. In other words there isn’t a list of exempt building types as in all cases it will depend on the particular circumstances.
• Generators will need to satisfy FIT Licensees and Ofgem that it is not possible to obtain an EPC for a particular building in support of their application for FITs. This evidence could, for example, be in the form of a declaration or letter from an accredited energy assessor who has visited the site in question and who confirms that it is not possible to provide an EPC for the building to which the PV installation is attached should be submitted. Generators will also need to satisfy FIT Licensees and Ofgem that the installation is not wired to any other buildings for which it is possible to obtain an EPC.

• Decisions on eligibility for FITs are ultimately a matter for FIT Licensees and Ofgem to make on receipt of an application for FITs, and not a matter that DECC can offer a view on. Ofgem have issued further guidance for generators and suppliers on the changes to the FITs legislation resulting from the first phase of the comprehensive review, including the application of the energy efficiency requirement.

**What will be the tariff for installations which do not meet the eligibility requirements for Level D or above?**

• Effective 1 August, solar PV installations which fail to meet the EPC requirement of level D or above will receive a tariff equivalent to the stand-alone tariff for solar PV installations with the same eligibility date.

• The stand alone tariff from 1 August 2012 will be 7.1p/kWh, and will be subject to degression thereafter, according to the published framework.

**Will energy efficiency requirement be applied to non-PV technologies?**

• No. The energy efficiency requirement will not be extended to include the non-PV technologies.

• Only solar PV installations are subjected to the requirement for EPC of Level D or above to get the standard tariff.

• However, this policy will be considered at future reviews.
8. Multiple Installations

What is the multi-installation tariff?

- The multi-installation tariff applies to PV installations where the generator or nominated recipient for FITs already owns or receives FIT payments for more than 25 PV installations on different sites.

- Such installations will receive a tariff set at 80% of the level of the standard tariff.

- For new solar PV installations from 1 August, the multiple installation tariff will be 90% of the tariff for individual installations. For 4kW (i.e. domestic) installations, the multiple installation tariff will be 14.4p/kWh.

Why is the threshold 25 installations?

- The threshold has been set at 25 installations in the light of responses to recent consultations expressing concerns about perverse impacts on some community projects of setting the threshold at more than one installation. Such projects may have PV installations on more than one site but not enough sites to benefit from any economies of scale.

Does this mean tariffs will change for my current sites?

- The multi-installation tariff will only apply to installations with an eligibility date on or after 1 April 2012.

Do my current sites count towards the quota?

- Yes.

Will existing sites get their tariffs reduced when I go above the threshold of 25 installations?

- No. The lower tariffs will only apply from the 26th installation onwards.
I am developing a social housing scheme. What will be the tariff levels for multi-installation projects? The tariffs for all installations are published on Ofgem's FITs Scheme Tariff Tables web page.

- For new solar PV installations from 1 August, the multiple installation tariff will be 90% of the tariff for individual installations. For 4kW (i.e. domestic) installations, the multiple installation tariff will be 14.4p/kWh.

- This tariff applies to installations where the generator or nominated recipient is already receiving FITs payments for 25 or more other solar PV installations.

Will there be any special provision for social housing?

- No, there was no special provisions made for Social Housing.

Will the aggregated tariffs be applicable across all technologies?

- No, the aggregated tariffs only apply to solar PV installations.

We will however keep this under observation for future review of the scheme.
9. General Questions

What are the ‘higher’, ‘middle’, and ‘lower’ rates in the FITs tariff tables?

- The higher, middle, and lower rates for solar PV installations are defined in the Modifications to the Standard Conditions of Electricity Supply Licences (No. 2 of 2012) available here.

- The lower rate applies to installations that do not meet the energy efficiency requirement (if applicable).

- The middle rate is the multiple installation tariff – i.e. it applies to installations that meet the energy efficiency requirement (if applicable), and where the generator or nominated recipient for FIT payments is already the generator or nominated recipient for 25 or more other solar PV installations.

- The higher rate is the standard tariff for installations that meet the energy efficiency requirement (if applicable) and do not fall into the definition of multiple installations.

Did the solar PV tariffs increase with inflation in April 2012?

- Tariffs for existing FITs installations with eligibility dates before 3 March 2012 were increased with inflation in April 2012.

- New tariffs for PV installations from 3 March had already incorporated this increase and were not increased further.

Did the tariffs for other technologies go up in line with inflation in April 2012 as well?

- Yes, tariffs for all non-PV technologies were also increased in line with inflation in April 2012. Some were also subject to planned degression at the same point (upgraded tariffs available here). New tariffs are intended for some of these technologies from December 2012.
How much money will I make if I install solar PV on my house?

- That depends on a range of factors such as the direction of your roof and the size of your panels. The Energy Saving Trust website has a calculator which can be used to predict potential income - http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Solar-panels-PV/Solar-Energy-Calculator

What will I need to do to ensure that I receive the current tariff before a tariff reduction takes effect? What is the ‘eligibility date’?

- To receive the current tariff, the eligibility date of the installation must be before the date on which tariff reductions take effect.

- The eligibility date for FITs installations up to 50kW in size continues to be the date on which the FITs Licensee (normally an electricity supplier) receives a complete application for FITs.

- This means that the installation must have been commissioned and your FITs Licensee must have received a valid application (with all the relevant documentation, including the MCS and EPC (if required) certificates) for FITs before the date of implementation of the new tariffs. We advise generators to contact their preferred FITs Licensee in advance of submitting their application to confirm acceptable methods of receiving applications.

- For installations larger than 50kW in size, the eligibility date is the later of the date the application for ROO-FIT accreditation was received by Ofgem, or the date on which the installation was commissioned. Further information if available in Ofgem’s ‘Guidance for renewable installations’ available on www.ofgem.gov.uk/fits.
What if I decide to sell my home which has a solar PV installation?

- Owners of homes with solar PV who wish to sell the property would need to check with their mortgage advisers and all other parties involved and put the necessary legal documents in place.

- The FITs scheme allows of the change of the recipient of the FITs payment in the event that the owner of the installation change.

- In the first instance, refer to your Statement of Terms and Conditions from your FITs Supplier for the process of notifying any changes with the installation.