

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
T: +44 (0)300 060 4000

www.decc.gov.uk

1 March 2012

Our ref: 12/0157

Dear ,

RE: Guidance issued to Ofgem regarding solar installations

Subsequent to our letter on 2 February (Ref: 12/0071) to which you send an immediate response from [_____](#) in response to our request to limit the scope of your request, we have interpreted the final combined request (12/0071 & 12/0057) as follows:

“Under the FOI act I'd like to request information about the correspondence between the Department and Ofgem regarding accrediting solar installations.

- *a) guidance given to Ofgem with regard to solar PV >50kW before and around the time DECC changed the tariff (1 Aug 2011), and*
- *b) extensions before and around the time the rule for extensions changed (18 Oct 2011)*

In this area any email, letter or notes from meetings between DECC and Ofgem about the MCS and ROO-FIT process would be of interest as it is in the public interest to ensure that regulatory decision making is time consistent and not influenced by political decisions. “

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) as the information you sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in EIRs.

We have now completed searching for the information you requested and have not found any documents within the scope of your request. However, in the interest of transparency, minutes of meetings between DECC and Ofgem for the period as requested have been disclosed. We are also disclosing emails with Ofgem sharing the Briefing Pack and Lines to take after the decision document on the Fast-track and Extension consultation were published. These documents are attached and listed in the Annex below.

However, in releasing this information some personal information has been withheld in line with our obligations under the Data Protection Act. In releasing the minutes, we have also withheld any references to legal advice.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the DECC Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Feed-in Tariffs Policy Development
Office of Renewable Energy Deployment
Department of Energy and Climate Change – www.decc.gov.uk

Annex:

Minutes of Meetings between DECC and Ofgem on FITs Implementation;

- DECC-Ofgem Meeting Minutes – 7 June 2011
- DECC-Ofgem Meeting Minutes – 21 June 2011
- DECC-Ofgem Meeting Minutes – 5 July 2011
- DECC-Ofgem Meeting Minutes – 19 July 2011
- DECC-Ofgem Meeting Minutes – 2 August 2011
- DECC-Ofgem Meeting Minutes – 13 September 2011
- DECC-Ofgem Meeting Minutes – 6 October 2011

Emails to Ofgem sharing Briefing Pack and Lines to Take

- Email 1 – DECC-Ofgem – Fast track – 9 June
- Email 1 Attachment - Briefing Pack – FITs Fast-track Response – 9 June 2011
- Email 2 – DECC-Ofgem – Extensions – 27 September
- Email 2 Attachment - Extension Consultation – 27 September 2011