

**Department of Energy & Climate
Change**

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.decc.gov.uk

6 February 2013

Ref: EIR 13/0041

RE: EIR request on wind turbines in Sussex

Dear

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2013, requesting information on wind turbines in Sussex. This is being considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

For convenience, I have set out your questions with corresponding answers below.

1. *“Can you tell me how many wind turbines there are in Sussex as of Jan 1, 2013?”*

DECC’s Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD) showed that as of November 2012 (when figures were last available) there was one wind turbine operating in Sussex. Please note that although information on projects in planning is updated every month, inevitably it can take time to hear about new projects or when the status of an application changes. Therefore, information may appear slightly out of date for a handful of applications. See <https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/welcome-to-the-restats-web-site>.

In addition the “Sub Regional Feed in Tariff Confirmed on the CFR Statistics” spreadsheet provides information on the number of onshore wind installations by local authority and parliamentary constituency area. This is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/sub-regional-feed-in-tariffs-confirmed-on-the-cfr-statistics>

2. *“Can you tell me how many of those were creating energy in 2012?”*

DECC does not hold this information. I suggest you contact Ofgem at: renewable@ofgem.gov.uk

3. *“Can you tell me how many of those were operating below capacity for 2012?”*

As with other forms of energy generation, wind turbines cannot operate at full capacity due to maintenance, the fact that wind is intermittent etc. The load factor provides a measure of the amount of electricity generated by wind turbines compared to the theoretical maximum output under ideal wind conditions. A 2008 paper *Load factors for wind technologies*, suggests that the annual capacity factor for wind power in the UK (long term average of over 27%) compares favourably to that of Germany (around 20%). Over a 13 year historic average, load factors were as follows: England and Wales 25.5%, Scotland 28.7% and Northern Ireland 33.3%.

You may be aware of the issue of de-rating of wind turbines, which has received recent media attention. DECC takes this issue seriously and is discussing the issue with Industry. We have acted to address a similar issue for hydro sites and are committed to doing the same for wind, if necessary.

In terms of the scale of the issue, we are aware that a very small number of manufacturers have started to sell turbines which have been “de-rated” to allow them to benefit from higher tariffs. To date, only 32 turbines have been installed in the relevant band, representing just 0.009% of all installations and 1.2% of wind sites supported by FITs, but not all will have been de-rated.

We are committed to ensuring value for money within the FITs scheme and if we find evidence of gaming we will act by changing how the scheme operates.

It should be noted that wind turbines are only paid subsidies for the electricity they generate, and not by installed capacity.

4. *“Can you tell me how many of those operating below capacity for 2012 received subsidies?”*

DECC does not hold this information. As discussed above the load factor provides a measure of the amount of electricity generated by wind turbines compared to the theoretical maximum output under ideal wind conditions.

Installations under five megawatts are eligible for the Feed in Tariff Scheme. Further information is available at:
<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/fits/Pages/fits.aspx>

For installations over five megawatts, Ofgem’s renewables register holds details of wind farms accredited under the Renewables Obligation scheme. The register is available at <https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/>

5. *“Can you tell me the total amount of subsidies given to turbines operating below capacity for 2012?”*

DECC does not hold this information. I suggest you contact Ofgem at:
renewable@ofgem.gov.uk

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,

Office for Renewable Energy Deployment