

Gregory Barker MP

Minister of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place

London

SW1A 2AW

www.decc.gov.uk

David Williams
Anthony Battersby
Gavin King-Smith
Jon Needle
Matt Palmer
Philip Davis
Chris Elliott

13 October 2010

Dear Mr Williams,

Thank you for your joint letter of 5 October 2010.

You raised some concerns, which Ofgem has also raised with us, in relation to the accreditation of some micro hydropower installations (<50kW). This relates to those projects that were put in place during the transition from the Renewables Obligation (RO) to Feed in Tariffs (FITs) that were commenced or planned before the introduction of FITs but not commissioned. We are aware of certain issues relating to their accreditation and we are working to resolve them. We intend to make an announcement about this shortly.

We remain committed to the MCS, which is needed to provide protection to individuals developing hydropower schemes <50kW. It also remains the legal requirement for access to FITs (<50kW). We need to build confidence in the quality of hydro installations and products in view of potential growth in this sector.

I understand that there is support for the MCS installer standard already published. I am informed that the MCS remanufacturing standard was approved by the MCS working group on 7 October. This will give 'as new' turbines access to FITs, when installed by an MCS installer. Good progress was also made at the same meeting to finalise the MCS product standard.

I am also keen to see MCS offering a useful route for the resolution of any complaints that may arise from communities in relation to a hydro installation <50kW.

I hope you find this information encouraging and helpful and I will ask my officials to follow up with a telephone call. However, if you still feel that there are significant problems, then I will look to arrange another meeting at the Department.

I am copying this letter to Oliver Letwin at Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely,

