



The Commission for Energy Regulation
The Exchange
Belgard Square North
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Dear Sirs

22.01.2016

We are writing in response to your document "Review of Connection and Grid Access Policy". We understand that the review is at an early stage and that our views, in part, might be represented by the Irish Solar Energy Association. Nevertheless we would like to put across our position as a major player in the rooftop Solar PV market.

At Solar Electric we market and install Solar PV systems throughout the Republic of Ireland. Recent successes include 190 kWp across Tipperary Council premises and 250 kWp at O'Shea Farms in Kilkenny. We have a four year history of successful cooperation with ESB networks across multiple projects from 4 – 250 kWp.

We believe any changes to grid connection and access policy should be in favour of small to mid-size rooftop installations, these installations have a number of benefits:

- Rooftop installations on sites with a high base-load reduce the need for additional supply of electricity from the grid.
- Reduced electricity consumption from fossil-fuel plants, in line with the recently announced White Paper, can be achieved with very little subsidy.
- Businesses in most sectors (especially food) have a bias towards renewables and will invest if possible.
- Growth of this sector has already and will continue to deliver falling costs € per kWh terms.
- Electricity is generated from, otherwise wasted, roof space without pollution or upset to the environment.

Our concern is that applications from speculative large-scale ground mount projects planned across the country will cause delays to the very real, short-term, projects that we have, and put our business in jeopardy while denying off-takers the benefits of low-cost solar energy.

We request a fast-track approval through the non-GPA process for projects below 250 kWp, where the solar PV panels are situated at the premises of the off-taker and where the projected production from the PV does not exceed 50% of the baseload of the premises. In other words, where the project is about self-consumption not intentional export.

We would be very happy to come in and talk to you about our concerns and possible solutions.

Yours faithfully

Tom Foley
Director
Solar Electric Ireland

