

Consultation Response: Review of Connection and Grid Access Policy CER/15/284

Commission for Energy Regulation

Sent via email to: electricityconnectionpolicy@cer.ie

This response is provided on behalf of the Terenure Community Energy Group. Our group is a local energy group with ambitions to support this Dublin suburb to become a truly sustainable urban community.

When considering amendments to the connection process and policy, we urge you to consider the unique needs of community groups when seeking to develop renewable energy developments, particularly as community groups are constrained by location, and cannot afford the uncertainty, extremely long waiting periods, and high costs that are currently experienced by those seeking grid connections.

For the success of the community energy industry it will be imperative that a straight forward, cost appropriate and timely system is in place for groups seeking connection to the grid for their own local generation developments. Guaranteed connection to the grid where capacity exists is provided in many European countries. The lack of certainty over grid connection is one of the biggest barriers to a community wishing to develop a renewable energy project.

We urge you to consider:

- Rescind connection offers to 'phantom' developments where no planning permission exists, and give communities the first offer for connection.
- Ensure a straight forward, cost appropriate and timely application process is in place for groups seeking connection to the grid for their own local generation developments.
- Maintain a straight forward application process for microgeneration connections.
- The recommendations within the White Paper which support an easier route to the grid for community projects.

Regards,

Terenure Community Energy Group