

Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011

Dear Prime Minister,

You will be aware of the current debate about support levels for microgeneration projects through the Government's Feed-in Tariff (FIT) scheme.

In the short time it has been running, the FIT scheme has helped tens of thousands of households, businesses and communities across the country control their energy bills at a time of soaring prices.

In the social housing sector in particular, the scheme has proven the huge potential of renewable energy to help alleviate fuel poverty in some of the country's poorest households, by cutting bills and promoting greater energy efficiency. The scheme has attracted substantial attention and investment from social landlords, who have been quick to identify these benefits for their tenants. As well as reducing their tenants' energy bills, the FIT generates an income which can be re-invested back into their communities with additional energy-saving measures for the benefit of all homes.

Following pressure from the Treasury, DECC has now published details of proposed changes to the FIT scheme. These changes are based on what DECC has publicly acknowledged as outdated modelling. Whilst we fully support tariff reductions in line with falling technology costs for solar power installations in particular, the level of cuts proposed are far greater than the reductions in the cost of that technology since the scheme was launched some 18 months ago.

At a time of great economic uncertainty, FIT installations are one of the very few things that social landlords can do to support their tenants. However, the proposed level of these reductions will, quite simply, render new projects financially unviable. For the vast majority of social landlords, the risks of projects will be too big and the return on investment too small.

We therefore urge you to request the Chancellor of the Exchequer to revisit the spending constraints his Department has placed on a scheme which makes no contribution to reducing the Government deficit and is funded by energy companies, and to give special consideration to the contribution it has made to the UK's social housing sector.

Yours sincerely,

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Executive Director  
10:10 Campaign

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