

I am the proprietor of a micro hydro-electric scheme connected to the grid and the founder and administrator of the [Micro Hydro Association](http://www.microhydroassociation.co.uk).

I have the following comments to make in response to the consultation:

- 1 I would welcome an initiative which will enable the grids to be adapted more easily to allow fair supply of available power (whether gas or electricity) and to enable the connection of localised generators without the current restrictions on connected capacity.
- 2 Distributors and large generators should be required to install suitable monitoring and control equipment to enable this to happen. The costs of this should ultimately be borne by the users of energy in proportion to their usage through regulated energy price increases .
- 3 The majority of this equipment would be most usefully installed at power stations, sub-stations and possibly line branches, not on Low Voltage lines or connections to users and small generators.
- 4 Whilst I can see that electricity suppliers may be able to reduce their administrative costs (of meter reading and transfer of customers for example) by installing meters with some form of communication, I do not consider this should be subsidised by the taxpayer – if there are genuine net savings or efficiencies to be had, suppliers will offer the installation of domestic meters with the functionality required and thus improve their competitiveness and reduce prices.
- 5 The proposal to install “HANs” in domestic premises appears to be an invasive and wholly unnecessary. It is not at all apparent that this would do any more to encourage reduced energy use than would far less costly awareness campaigns (including awareness of the cheap domestic usage monitoring devices already available), and charging the true cost of power consumption.
- 6 Overall, I believe that the work and capital requirement in implementing such a massive scheme as that proposed will prove to be an unaffordable white elephant, particularly in view of the current budget deficit – it should be abandoned forthwith and replaced by something far more directed towards improving the power networks and encouraging renewable energy generation.

  
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