

## Received by email – from Lightgen Ltd

Hi Gareth,

I've recently become aware of the G83/2 consultation, as a consequence of a discussion on an Internet forum (The Electricians Forum) Parties (SSEG Installers) discussing the consultation are deeply concerned about proposed rule changes around advance permission to connect. As I understand it, the proposal is that any installer who has previously installed a SSEG in a postcode area, identified down to the second numeral in the post code (ie - AB1 2xx) will have to seek permission to install. However, for the same installation, an installer who has not installed in the area previously will not. In my view, which is shared by the parties involved in the discussion, this proposal appears to disadvantage small local businesses in favour of large national ones. You should note that much solar PV installation business is gained on a referral basis – neighbours recommending suppliers to each other.

The solar industry has been through a particularly difficult time over the last year, given poorly managed changes to the FiT scheme (November 2011), nonsensical restrictions to FiT eligibility (EPC requirement April 2012) and poorly researched articles in the press (on going). The last thing needed by small local solar installation businesses is further bureaucracy and restrictions on their ability to do business.

Clearly this proposal is intended to restrict the number of SSEGs installed per sub-station and I understand why many, if not all, DNOs wish for this to happen, however, It's the DNO's role to operate the countries electricity distribution network, they should get their respective act's together and deal with the problem, not seek to mitigate it. Yes, I understand that's costly – get on with it.

I should also observe that most DNO's seem unable to deal with their existing level of SSEG connection requests; this position will not improve given a significant increase in requests under the proposed G83/2 permission requirements. Should this rule change be forced on us, I'd like to see a requirement placed on the DNO to respond within three working days of the day of request, with compensation payable to the party making the request for failure to deliver on time. There should also be a requirement for an online system to be in place through which requests should be made – all DNO's to have this up and running before the rules are changed – faxes and written letters are a nonsense in this day and age.

Regards

Roger Thawley

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