

Installers of micro solar PV  
stations (<50kW) in Northern  
Ireland

Our Ref: Micro-NIRO  
Email: MicroNIRO@ofgem.gov.uk

Date: 12 July 2016

Dear Installer,

**NIROC banding drop 1 October 2016 for Solar PV microgeneration stations (<50kW) in Northern Ireland**

In January 2015, the [Department for Economy](#) announced its intention to further reduce Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) support for new micro (<50kW) solar PV stations under the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) from 1 October 2016. **To secure the current support level, new stations will have to fully commission and submit their NIRO application to us before 1 October 2016.**

This deadline exists whether the NIRO application is submitted by the installation owner **or** submitted by an agent appointed on their behalf. **Please note that sending documentation to an agent does not constitute an application to the scheme, it is the date that the agent submits the application on the Renewables and CHP Register.**

For more information, see [www.Ofgem.gov.uk/MicroNIRO](http://www.Ofgem.gov.uk/MicroNIRO)

For generators that choose to apply to us directly, we have produced a [step-by-step guide](#) (also attached) that will help you through the NIRO application submission and accreditation process. We would be very grateful if you could provide this guide to owners of any new installation that wish to apply themselves, or when you receive queries around the application process.

As the 1 October 2016 deadline approaches, we expect to see a peak in accreditation applications. Unfortunately this is often linked to a drop in the quality of applications we receive. Due to this, we will carry out extra checks to ensure that installations are fully commissioned at the date stated in their application and on their Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) certificate. We also intend to carry out a range of desk based and site audits as we did last year.

The practice of creating pre-generated MCS certificates and other forged commissioning documents is considered fraud. This is not acceptable and where instances are identified, we will notify certification bodies and MCS, which could lead to criminal proceedings taken

against all those involved. It also leads to significant delays in accreditation for the owners of the installation. If you have concerns about any party generating false documentation please contact our Counter Fraud team by e-mail at [CounterFraud@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:CounterFraud@ofgem.gov.uk) or call on 0207 901 7373.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the part you play in ensuring the continued success of NIRO scheme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell".

Sarah Russell  
Renewable Generation Manager