



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy
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Jeff Maskrey
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Ref No: FOI2016/27170

19 December 2016

Dear Mr Maskrey,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: SOLAR PANELS AND SMART METERS

Thank you for your email of 15 October where you requested the following information:

- 1. Please can you give me the number of households fitted with solar panels (whether the household benefits from them or not) than cannot have a smart meter fitted.*
- 2. If not why can they not be fitted? (according to British Gas and SSE)*

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

We are writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information you requested is not held by this Department.

You may however wish to be aware that energy suppliers are required to take all reasonable steps to roll out smart meters that comply with the smart metering equipment technical specifications (SMETS) to domestic consumers and smaller non-domestic premises by the end of 2020. The roll out requirements do not include any exceptions for premises with microgeneration technologies and all SMETS

compliant electricity meters must be capable of recording the electricity generated by solar panels or other microgeneration technologies that is exported to the grid. We are not aware of any technical reasons why smart meters cannot be installed in premises with microgeneration technologies.

Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi.requests@beis.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Smart Metering Implementation Programme
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy