What other changes have been made since the FITs scheme started?

Feed-in Tariffs Amendment Order 2011

The <u>Feed-in Tariffs (Specified Maximum Capacity and Functions) (Amendment)</u>
<u>Order 2011[External link]</u> was laid in Parliament on 4 May 2011 and came into force on 30 May 2011.

The 2011 Amendment Order is not part of the FITs review but has been developed in the light of early experience of implementing FITs. It makes a number of modifications and housekeeping amendments to the Feed-in Tariffs (Specified Maximum Capacity and Functions) Order 2010[External link] that are designed to ensure the FITs scheme is being delivered as envisaged.

Amendments include those that:

- Provide a transitional arrangement allowing micro-hydro stations (with a capacity of 50kW or less) that are first commissioned between 1st April 2010 and 1st October 2011, to be accredited for FITs under the ROO-FIT process. After this transitional period, the MCS-FIT accreditation process will apply as originally envisaged.
- Extend by a year the period in which eligible microgenerators (with a capacity
 of less than 50kW) can notify <u>Ofgem[External link]</u> to enable them to transfer
 from the <u>Renewables Obligation</u> to FITs.
- Ensure that the original policy intent on <u>FITs and grants</u> is properly reflected, by time-limiting the period in which installations that have benefited from a public grant can also be eligible for FITs under the de minimis rules.

The Explanatory Memorandum is available on the <u>legislation.gov.uk: Feed-in Tariffs</u> (<u>Specified Maximum Capacity and Functions</u>) (<u>Amendment</u>) <u>Order 2011 - Explanatory Memorandum[External link]</u> page.

The Impact Assessment supporting the 2011 Amendment Order, is also available:

• Impact Assessment for the Feed-in Tariffs (Specified Maximum Capacity and Functions) (Amendment) Order 2011 [filetype:pdf filesize: 273.24Kb]

Note: In June 2011 the Coalition published a <u>Microgeneration Strategy</u> which proposed to withdraw the exclusive link between micro hydro and the MCS for the purpose of FITs eligibility. It also confirmed that the comprehensive review of FITs is considering how this can be taken forward. We will consult on the comprehensive review later this year. The review will be completed by around the end of 2011 with any resulting changes introduced from April 2012 (unless the review reveals a need for greater urgency).

In the meantime, and pending the outcome of the comprehensive review, the Feed-in Tariffs (Specified Maximum Capacity and Functions) (Amendment No. 2) Order 2011[External link], which came into force on 1 August 2011, extends the current transitional arrangement. This means that micro-hydro stations (with a capacity of 50kW or less) that are first commissioned between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2012 will need to be accredited for FITs under the ROO-FIT process.