

Steve Davies
Electricity Markets
DECC
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW



20 May 2010

Dear Mr Davies

Re: Allowing Local Authorities to Sell Electricity

The English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) exists to provide a collective voice for the nine English National Park Authorities. It is governed by the Chairs of the nine Authorities. Our response represents the collective view of officers who are working within the policies established by the National Park Authorities (NPAs).

ENPAA welcomes the government's consultation on making regulations under the *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976* and we are supportive of the proposed move to give local authorities the power to sell electricity generated by them from renewable energy.

National Park Authorities have an ongoing commitment to reduce emissions from their operations, which is achieved through a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. These have involved, for example, the installation of biomass boilers, ground-source heat pumps, energy efficient building construction and retro-fitting. Where NPAs choose to install renewable energy electricity measures such as photo-voltaic panels, they would wish to benefit from being able to sell any excess electricity generated back to the grid. The recent Government circular "English National Parks and the Broads" specifically envisages NPAs leading the way in mitigating climate change (paragraphs 44 – 47 refer).

NPAs are a type of local authority, funded through Defra with statutory purposes as set out in the *Environment Act 1995*. Although not all local government legislation applies to NPAs, they (as is the case with all local authorities) may only do the things that legislation gives them power to do. As it stands, Section 11 of the *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976* does not apply to NPAs. This means that NPAs do not have the power to sell electricity which they generate (whether in association with heat or not). We therefore recommend that NPAs are specifically named in the proposed revised legislation on the sale of electricity by local authorities to give NPAs the power to sell electricity generated from renewable energy.

We are happy for this response to be made publicly available and would be happy to discuss any of the points we make further with officials if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Hamblin'.

Paul Hamblin
ENPAA Director