

Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) FAQ: Scheme Closure

www.ofgem.gov.uk

www.ofgem.gov.uk/fits

December 2018

What is changing?

On 18 December 2018 legislation was laid in Parliament to have the effect of closing the FIT scheme to new applicants from 1 April 2019, barring several exceptions.

This FAQ is for existing participants and current or future applicants to the FIT scheme who want a basic overview of the closure arrangements.

Please contact the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) with any questions about the legislation or the decision to close the scheme at feedintariff@beis.gov.uk.

For detailed guidance about the closure of the scheme and how to apply, please read our [Essential guide to closure](#), our [Guidance for Renewable Installations \(version 13\)](#) and our other [FIT FAQ](#) on our [website](#).

Are there implications for accredited installations?

No. The closure of the scheme does not affect installations which are already accredited. FIT support is payable for 20 years (25 years in some cases) and tariffs are adjusted annually by RPI.

Your obligations under your statement of FIT terms will continue for the duration of your support. This includes your obligation to inform your FIT licensee about changes including, for example, installing battery storage with your FIT installation, replacing or moving metering, replacing generating equipment, or adding capacity.

What do these changes mean if I have already submitted an application?

These changes do not require applicants who have already submitted their application to do anything new. Your application will be assessed against the existing evidential criteria. Installations with preliminary accreditation retain their existing validity period, and could benefit from an additional grace period (see below).

What would happen if my application is still being processed after 31 March 2019?

Your application can be processed after 31 March 2019 provided you apply on or before 31 March 2019 and there is space for your installation in the relevant deployment cap. Your application will be assessed against the scheme eligibility criteria to determine whether it can be accredited.

I'm thinking about making an application. What do I need to do and by when?

This depends on the type of application you intend to make to the FIT scheme.

- Small installations (solar photovoltaic and wind installations with a Declared Net Capacity (DNC) of 50kW or less and micro combined heat and power (CHP) installations with a DNC of 2kW or less) need to commission and have a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) certificate issued on or before 31 March 2019. An application for accreditation will need to be received by

a FIT licensee by 31 March 2020. Please note that an MCS certificate can only be issued once the installation has been installed and commissioned.

- Applications for pre-registration of small installations from schools need to be received by us on or before 31 March 2019. Applicants then have 12 months from the date the pre-registration application is received by us in which to apply to their FIT licensee for accreditation. For more information about the existing policy on school installations, please see the guidance on our [website](#).
- Applications for pre-registration of small installations from communities need to be received by us on or before 31 March 2019. Applicants then have 12 months from the date the pre-registration application was received by us to commission and apply to their FIT licensee for accreditation. For more information about the existing policy on community installations, please see the guidance on our [website](#).
- Applications for ROO-FIT accreditation of a commissioned installation, and pre-accreditation of an installation that is not yet commissioned (including applications for ROO-FIT community installations) would need to be received by us on or before 31 March 2019.

Submitting an application on time is not a guarantee of support. There must be space in the relevant cap for your installation, and all scheme eligibility criteria must be satisfied.

Are there any grace periods for applications?

Installations whose preliminary accreditation validity period ends on or after 31 March 2019 can use a grid or radar delay grace period up to 12 months after the end of their validity period. This is only available for installations who experience delays to their grid connection or radar works beyond their control. Our '[Essential guide to closure](#)' provides more detail on how to apply for the grace period.

How does the caps regime work with scheme closure?

Deployment caps place limits on the total capacity that can receive a particular tariff rate in a particular three-month period. More information about how the caps regime works at present can be found in chapter 2 of our [guidance](#).

Installations that do not fall into any of the remaining caps for their particular technology because the caps are oversubscribed, are not eligible for support from the scheme. We publish weekly [reports](#) on our website showing deployment towards each cap.

Are the government going to continue to subsidise new small scale renewable installations?

BEIS are considering responses to their [call for evidence](#) on the future of support for small scale renewables. Questions about future policy should be directed to BEIS at futureofsmallscalesupport@beis.gov.uk.

More information

If you are thinking about installing a small scale installation in England & Wales there is further information on the Government's [new digital advice service](#). If you are in Scotland then you can find further information at [Home Energy Scotland](#). You can also find guidance on our [website](#), including our FIT scheme [FAQ](#). To find out more about ROO-FIT installations and how to join the FIT scheme, please see the [guidance](#) on our [website](#), including our FIT scheme [FAQ](#).

About this document

Please note that this document should not be regarded as a definitive technical or legal guide to the current scheme. This document does not constitute legal advice and prospective applicants may want to consider taking their own independent legal and other advice.