

Relocation and Remedial Activation of Photovoltaic (PV) Feed in Tariff (FiT) Meters

- Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels have been fitted to around 3,500 NCC homes to date; these panels provide some free electricity to the resident and generate a feed in tariff (energy sold to energy companies) for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as the PV host or generator.
- In order to contribute to the feed in tariff and receive payments, properties must be registered with the energy provider and have a feed in tariff (FiT) meter installed. The FiT meter automatically updates the provider's monitoring software and calculates what energy is being fed in for redistribution.
- Payment requires both the property to be registered, the FiT meter to be linked to the energy companies monitoring system and, since OfGem's revised guidance of 2016, the FiT meter to be located in an "accessible" location wherever possible.
- *"7.86. When registering for the FIT scheme, FIT applicants should be made aware that to continue to be eligible for FIT payments, generation and/or export meters must be in an accessible location and the FIT Generator will be expected to take reasonable steps to allow access to them. The FIT Licensee's verification method does not relieve the FIT Generator of these obligations in anyway"*
- https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2016/02/fits_guidance_for_licensed_electricity_suppliers_fit_16_v8.pdf
- Almost all of NCC's properties with PV panels have been registered, however 1,800 FiT meters installed prior to 2012 were incompatible with the energy company's monitoring software as a result of their being installed before the specific provider was appointed. The costs for the replacement sims was part of the new monitoring contract that was let by NCH, the price was explicit in the contract.
- 1,050 meters are also located in the properties' loft spaces, meaning they are in breach of regulation and forfeit for FiT payment. This situation has not arisen as a result of fault, rather a subsequent change in regulation. Relocation is already underway.
- Incompatible or inaccessibly located meters mean that the HRA is not receiving its feed in tariff revenue.
- Remediation of these issues will be a single intervention that will either install a compatible SIM card in the meter to enable communication with the energy companies' software and/or relocation of the meter from the loft to a more suitable and accessible location compatible with OfGem regulation. Once this has been done feed in tariff payments can recommence and in the case of registered properties be backdated to the date of registration.
- The total cost of these interventions is £148,050 for the relocation of the meters and £54,000 for compatible SIM cards.