

Martin Cave
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London
WC1B 4AD

Email: nie@cc.gsi.gov.uk

31st May 2013

Dear Mr Cave,

The Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG) is a joint collaboration between the Irish Wind Energy Association and RenewableUK. NIRIG represents the views of the large and small scale renewable electricity industry in Northern Ireland, providing a conduit for knowledge exchange, policy development support and consensus on best practice between all stakeholders in renewable energy.

NIRIG would like to note that we have responded to the recent consultations on the NIE 5th Price Control Draft Determination and Approval criteria and incentive mechanisms for Fund 3. These consultation responses can be found at the links below:

- Approval criteria and incentive mechanisms for RP5 Fund 3

http://www.ni-rig.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/NIRIG_response_RP5_Fund_3_Oct_2012.pdf

- Northern Ireland Electricity T&D Price Controls 2012-2017 – RP5 Draft Determination

http://www.ni-rig.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/NIRIG_RP5_draft_determination_response_190712.pdf

We intend to revisit our responses in light of the NIAUR Final Determination and will submit updated versions to the Competition Commission in early July.

NIRIG would also like to note that since our submission to the Draft Determination we have engaged with NIE on the issue of access to the 11kV network for small-scale wind generation. We recognise that in order for NIE to deliver smart solutions to challenges such as these, it will be important for innovation to be appropriately incentivised, particularly in light of the ambitious yet achievable Strategic Energy Framework targets of 40% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020. We believe that this should be an area that the Competition Commission should also include within its inquiry.

Another development that we would like to draw to the Competition Commission's attention are the recent Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) proposals as outlined in their Government response to Consultation on Policy Proposals for the Northern Ireland Energy Bill¹. In particular, we note that DETI intends to take steps to consider transposition of the RES Directive (Directive 2009/28/EC) into local law, given that

"Ongoing comment from the energy industry indicates that there is not confidence that this is sufficient to ensure that the relevant authorities will "take the appropriate steps to develop transmission and distribution grid infrastructure etc. in order to allow the secure operation of the electricity system as it accommodates the further development of electricity from RE sources".

We would further like to request the opportunity to make a presentation to the Competition Commission on the NIE 5th Price Control and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**sent by email, so bears no signature*

Meabh Cormacain
NIRIG

¹ http://www.detini.gov.uk/government_response_to_public_consultation_on_the_energy_bill_-_february_2013__2_.pdf