

Department of Energy & Climate Change
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www.decc.gov.uk

24 May 2012

Our ref: 12-0724

Dear ,

RE: Solar energy statistics: Number & postcodes of domestic PV installations in Essex

Thank you for your request Freedom of Information request received on 9 May as outlined below:

Your requests, received 9 May from

“Dear Department of Energy and Climate Change,

I am a University student completing a dissertation on solar energy and was wondering if you have any statistics on

a) the total number of domestic PV installations in Essex

and

b) the postcode locations of these installations in Essex

Failing this, do you have any statistics regarding installations in Essex which may help me?”

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) as the information you sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of ‘environmental information’ as stated in EIRs. We have now completed searching for the information you requested.

Some of the information requested is already in the public domain. The sub-regional statistics for installations on the Ofgem Central FITs Register are available in **Table ET5.6** at www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/fits/fits.aspx. However, because of the Data Protection Act 1998 we are unable to share data on the postcode locations of installations in Essex.

Regulations 12(3)/ 13(1)&(2) apply to information whose disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998 (or certain other provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998). This exempts information constituting the personal data of living individuals, the release of which would be in breach of the Department's obligations in respect of the Data Protection Principles as set out in the Data Protection Act. The definition of personal information to which regulation 12(3)/ 13 applies is wide and can include references to identifiable individuals.

In this case, the Department considers that some of the information you have requested fall within the ambit of the first Data Protection Principle, that the Personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully and, in particular, must not be processed unless at least one of the conditions in Schedule 2 to the DPA is met. Our view is that release of the postcode locations of installations as you have requested would not be fair and that none of the conditions of Schedule 2 are met.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the DECC Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Feed-in Tariffs Policy Development
Office of Renewable Energy Deployment
Department of Energy and Climate Change – www.decc.gov.uk