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14th October 2015

Response to Consultation on:

Closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation to new onshore wind in 2016

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Consultation Document.

We have been involved in wind energy since 1995 and are actively involved in the supply and installation of wind turbines in the 250kW sector in Northern Ireland.

The stipulation of qualifying criteria at the 30th September 2015 for accreditation under NIRO Scheme by the original end date of 31 March 2017 is going to halt many projects mid investment.

The qualifying criteria as outlined is unclear in its requirements and is leading to confusion amongst our clients who are now unsure where they stand in relation to their investment.

The consultation states that this will align NI with the position in Great Britain, however this does not appear to be the case as there is ongoing support for small wind in GB with the FIT scheme post 2017.

We suggest that the qualifying criteria needs to be clearly defined and the date should be no earlier than 31st December 2016 to allow investment decisions to be made in an orderly fashion.

Gerry Doran

Gerry Doran
Duncan Plant