

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

### THE SALE OF ELECTRICITY BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2010

2010 No. 1910

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Energy and Climate Change and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. This memorandum contains information for the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.
2. **Purpose of the instrument**
  - 2.1 This instrument prescribes a power to allow local authorities in England and Wales to sell electricity generated from renewable as well as combined heat and power sources.
3. **Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.**
  - 3.1 None.
4. **Legislative Context**
  - 4.1 Section 11(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 as amended by the Electricity Act 1989 prevents local authorities from selling electricity which is produced otherwise than in association with heat, unless regulations provide otherwise. This instrument prescribes a power to allow local authorities to sell electricity generated from renewable as well as combined heat and power sources.
5. **Territorial Extent and Application**
  - 5.1 This instrument extends to England and Wales and applies to both.
6. **European Convention on Human Rights**
  - 6.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.
7. **Policy background**
  - 7.1 The Government believes that local authorities should be given the opportunity to play a full part in the development of renewable heat and electricity and many local authorities are planning to take forward renewables projects.  
  
7.2 However, although The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 as amended by the Electricity Act 1989 gives local authorities power to sell heat, it includes a provision preventing local authorities from selling electricity which is produced otherwise than in association with heat unless regulations provide otherwise.  
  
7.3 The provision was introduced at the time of electricity privatisation and was designed to ensure the transfer of the electricity industry to the private sector, whilst recognising that local

authorities did have a limited role to play in smaller-scale generation, in particular combined heat and power stations.

7.4 DECC and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) issued a joint consultation in March of this year seeking views on a proposal to prescribe a power to allow local authorities to sell electricity generated from renewable as well as combined heat and power sources. The consultation closed on 2 June and attracted a very positive response from stakeholders.

## **8. Consultation outcome**

8.1 DECC and WAG consulted publically on the instrument, attracting over 70 consultation responses. Responses were overwhelmingly in favour of local authorities being allowed to sell electricity they generate from renewables with a small number of responses suggesting that some limit should be placed on the size and nature of any generation allowed. A Government response summarising the comments received will be published on the DECC website.

## **9. Guidance**

9.1 General guidance on the generation and sale of electricity is readily available on Ofgem and National Grid web pages.

## **10. Impact**

10.1 These regulations have no direct impact on the private or voluntary sector except for a possible negligible increase at the margins of the electricity supply. We will undertake work to establish what these costs are by the coming into force date of 18 August.

## **11. Regulating small business**

11.1 The legislation does not apply to small business.

## **12. Monitoring & review**

12.1 DECC will monitor this instrument and review it in light of any stakeholder concerns.

## **13. Contact**

Chris Chown at the Department for Energy and Climate Change Tel: 0300 068 6085 or email: [chris.chown@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.chown@decc.gsi.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.