

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 21

asked on 11 February 2014

MRS CUNNIGHAM ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY (MR MCARDLE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to applications for solar panel installations—

- 1) How many households had solar panels installed before the cut-off date for the 44c feed in tariff having submitted their applications?
- 2) How many applications were wrongly filled in?
- 3) How many applications were submitted late by solar installers not householders?

ANSWER:

- 1) As of 31 December 2013, there were 284,090 customers who have had solar systems installed and connected to the 44c feed-in-tariff, since the Solar Bonus Scheme commenced 1 July 2008. In line with eligibility requirements these customers lodged their applications for the Solar Bonus Scheme by 9 July 2012 and had their inverter energy systems installed by 30 June 2013.
- 2) Based on information received from the network businesses it is estimated around 2 per cent of application forms received were incomplete and rejected. Importantly, potential customers were advised about the importance of the application form being complete and that any form resubmitted after the 9 July 2012 deadline would only be considered for eligibility for the 8c feed-in-tariff.
- 3) This is difficult to accurately quantify. The way the scheme was designed meant most applications were submitted by solar PV company representatives as opposed to households. As such, the bulk of late applications would come from installers. In effect, Ergon and Energex would only become aware of a customer intention to submit by the due date if a complaint was made directly to them.