



475 Antrim Road T: 028 9037 0222  
Belfast F: 028 9037 1231  
BT15 3DA E: info@ufuhq.com  
W: www.ufuni.org

11 June 2015

Ronan McKeown  
Electricity Branch  
Utility Regulator  
Queens House  
14 Queens Street  
Belfast BT1 6ER

Dear Ronan,

### **Contestability in Connections – Proposed Next Steps Paper**

The Ulster Farmers' Union welcome the opportunity to contribute to this next steps paper.

The UFU are disappointed that the review has not gone far enough in assessing what is contestable and this could represent a missed opportunity for the land based small scale renewable sector we represent. For example, the UFU would have wished to see that the process of making the final connection to the existing system has not been deemed to be contestable.

In relation to accreditation, whilst the UFU did indicate that they were in favour of the GB model in relation to ICPs and IDNO's our response on 26 February should not be taken as a clear endorsement of the need for a blanket roll out of accreditation. The UFU wish to make it clear that whichever format of accreditation is chosen, it must not hinder the roll out of contestability. Any accreditation should not be costly and should be timely in how it is applied.

The UFU would have concerns about the limiting nature of NIE and SONI and only considering the Lloyds Register, which in itself could create unnecessary delays to contestability, there are other accreditation bodies and by widening the engagement review of potential bodies, will enhance the options available to developers. In addition, accreditation should not be applicable to all developers and a derogation could be applied dependent upon scale and capacity.

If you have any queries at this stage do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Osborne**  
**Senior Policy Officer**