

GRID CONNECTED PHOTOVOLTAIC PRODUCERS — PAYMENT

523. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister representing the Minister for Energy

- (1) Given the proposed retail electricity price rises, how much more will grid connected photovoltaic producers of electricity be paid for the electricity they generate?
- (2) Given that photovoltaic panels are producing their highest electricity output at the same time as peak demand, why are photovoltaic producers not paid a premium that reflects the cost of using expensive and polluting fossil fuel burning peaking plant?
- (3) When will the Government pay photovoltaic and other renewable energy electricity producers the promised feed-in tariff?
- (4) Can the Minister confirm the feed-in tariff that will be paid to renewable energy generators?
- (5) Will SmartPower tariffs rise during 2009–2010?
- (6) Will Natural Power tariffs rise during 2009–2010?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Energy has been provided with the following response

- (1) The Renewable Energy Buy-back Scheme payments will increase in line with the tariff increase.
- (2) Photovoltaic system owners have the opportunity to participate in the SmartPower tariff when applying to connect. This tariff incorporates charging that reflects system peaks.
- (3) The feed-in tariff will be paid to eligible system owners when it has been approved by the Government and implemented.
- (4) The feed-in tariff will be paid at a rate to the value of 60c/kWh for all electricity generated.
- (5)-(6) This information will be available as part of the 2009/10 Budget.