



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

**Justin Tomlinson MP**  
Minister of State for Energy Security and Net  
Zero

**Department for Energy Security & Net  
Zero**  
55 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HP

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

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Helen Hamilton  
Marches Planning & Environment  


22 May 2024

Dear Ms Hamilton,

Thank you for your email of 30 April, regarding the Energy Policy Statement EN-3 guidance on measuring the maximum capacity of projects and overplanting of solar farms.

We do not believe that there is a lack of clarity in the guidance and would like to assure you that the text was consulted on extensively and has been designated in Parliament, where no issues were raised.

In the Energy Policy Statement EN-3 guidance, overplanting is countenanced where reasonable, to address panel degradation. Unreasonable overplanting, or overplanting for any other reason, would not be supported. It will be a matter of planning judgement for the decision maker in any case to decide what the purpose of the overplanting is and whether it is reasonable.

Due to the variable nature of solar projects, it would be difficult to determine a single overplanting measurement that would be appropriate in all circumstances which is why it is for decision makers to take into account the specifics of each project.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



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