



The Consumer Council

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25 July 2011

Ref: PD20010863

Billy Walker
Utility Regulator
Queens House
10-18 Queen Street
BELFAST
BT1 6ED

Dear Billy,

Re: Generator Transmission Use of System (TUoS) charging – 2011/2012 Indicative tariffs

The Consumer Council is a Non-Departmental Public Body set up in legislation to safeguard the interests of all consumers, and particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged. The Consumer Council is an independent organisation which operates to promote and protect the consumer interest.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation on the generator Transmission Use of System (TUoS) charging – 2011/2012 indicative tariffs.

With fuel poverty levels in Northern Ireland at 44 per cent, many households are struggling to adequately heat their home, it is important that the regulatory structures look to minimise the cost of energy to consumers.

The Consumer Council believes that any decision on generator TUoS charging must be taken in the interest of all consumers. It is important that final tariffs take account of the impact on consumers in both jurisdictions equally and neither group of consumers is disadvantaged by the outcome. Ultimately any changes should aim to improve and encourage economic efficiency of generators and suppliers in the all-island market, which will provide benefits for consumers, these benefits will ultimately be realised through lower final bills.

It would be useful to be provided with the details of the impact indicative tariffs will have on all generators and what these tariffs would mean for consumers

in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. TUoS charging tariffs should be fair and cost reflective but should also provide transparency for the end user (the consumer), who will ultimately pay for TUoS through their bills.

I hope that these comments are helpful and are given due consideration. Please contact me if you require any clarification.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Murray
Senior Consumer Affairs Officer