

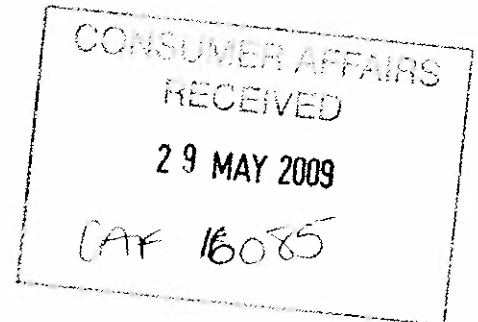


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Ref: HS/GB
Date: 27 May 2009



Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
9 Millbank
LONDON
SW1P 3GE

Dear Sir/Madam

OFGEM ENERGY SUPPLY PROBE – PREPAYMENT METERS

The elevated cost of gas and electricity purchased through pre-payment key meters has been a matter of concern for East Ayrshire Community Planning Partners for some time now.

It has been the view of Partners that the key meter measures in place within the energy sector unfairly penalise some of our most vulnerable members of society by being significantly financially disadvantageous and not sufficiently transparent. It is, therefore, heartening to learn that Ofgem's governing Authority is now minded to introduce new licence conditions on suppliers that will ban unjustified price differences.

The Community Planning Partnership places a great deal of importance on issues relating to fuel poverty and an award of £14,720 in 2008/09 was made from our Community Planning Challenge Fund and Small Project Development Fund to support issues in relation to rising fuel costs through a Fuel Assistance Scheme, which can be accessed by East Ayrshire residents who find themselves in a fuel crisis situation.

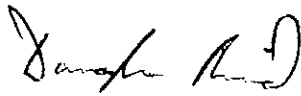
In addition, Aim 4 of our Improving Health and Wellbeing Action Plan (2009-2011) relates to the promotion of wellbeing by providing financial inclusion services, which target our most deprived communities and populations with a specific action to provide appropriate information, advice and assistance to individuals and families identified as being liable to disadvantage through fuel poverty.

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East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership welcomes the package of new proposals arising from the Ofgem Energy Supply Probe report and would be receptive to involvement in any future consultations.

Furthermore, it would be much appreciated if you could keep us informed of the final package of measures, which I understand are to be decided in July 2009 for implementation in the autumn.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Douglas Reid
Chair of East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership