

Dear Sir//Madam

I run a country pub as a REDACTED Tenant and the main thing threatening my business is energy prices which are now double my monthly rental prices from REDEACTED.

My contract with REDACTED for Electricity was due to run out on the 1st September, at the time the main concern was the rocketing energy prices, at the time they were going up daily and know one knew how far they were going to go. At the time I was coming to the end of a 3-year fixed contract and paying around 10 to 14p kwh. When I started to look at a new contract the prices were around 25 to 30p per kwh but on the day I went to agree to a contract they started at 33p kwh with REDACTED whom I was with at the time. That 33p was in the morning and when, after lunch I rang to confirm I would take that deal they had increased the price to nearly 50p kwh. I managed to get a contract with REDACTED at 40 to 44p kwh but to get that I had to lock in for 4 years on that contract. In the days that passed after that some people in our industry were getting prices at over £1 kwh. It has since come back down and although I haven't looked, I believe you can get a deal in the low 30's kwh. The contract I jumped on meant my monthly costs went from around £1000 a month to just over £4000 I paid in the first month of the contract in September. Luckily the government energy help scheme has been in place which has limited my monthly bill to just over £2000 but that comes to the end this month. That is electricity and doesn't include my heating or cooking which is Gas and my heating in my marquee eating are which is heated on diesel. Unfortunately, the electricity is covered and it's been discounted but we aren't on the grid for gas so we don't get automatic help. The Government scheme has been slow for off grid power and the portal for applying has supposedly just come live on the 10th March but still isn't easy to apply. The initial payment on this is £150 for a business property, which is crazy as for a domestic property its £200. I have no idea after this one-off payment how the discount works if any.

I have had many back and forward emails with my MP and he is trying to lobby the energy and business secretaries but with no luck yet. I have asked that they look into legislating that anyone who fixed into a long-term contract whilst the prices were rocketing last year can re-negotiate the contracts. He is also looking at making the platform easier to apply for retrospective help with 'off grid' rebates if any. I have quite a good relationship with my local MP and he is working for our industry.

Many Thanks

REDACTED