

POLICY CONSULTATION RESPONSE 9

To Whom It May Concern,

Having been a pub/restaurant tenant for over 20 years and had some terrible experiences with energy providers I would like to make the following recommendations.

1; customers should be allowed to deal direct with suppliers as do domestic customers. The broker situation is just a scam and by having these middlemen it just adds to the cost of energy. I recall my incredulity years ago when I phoned [REDACTED] for a price only to be told I couldn't deal direct with them. It's amazing to think that suppliers are not really that in the first place when you consider that they take energy from the National grids then use brokers to sell it on to consumers, adding this spurious layer of commission costs to businesses. There are a lot less business users than domestic so this market only exists to fleece users. To avoid suppliers inflating prices a cap should be introduced similar to the domestic one and non domestic profits should be publicised separately to highlight any abuse and show if any changes are needed to a new scheme.

2; deemed or out of contract rates should not be more than 5% higher than a suppliers best tariff. I once entered a temporary tenancy for a pub owning chain and was refused a contract because it was short term. I ended up paying thousands of pounds above what I would have for a couple of months energy.

3; there should be a break clause in longer term contracts so that if energy prices ever fall by a large margin (unlikely I know!) non domestic users can take advantage of the price drop. There is always this ridiculous assertion that suppliers need long term contracts for certainty of profitability yet the literally millions of domestic users can switch at will, surely this causes more volatility?

In closing I would like to add that the supposedly now deregulated energy market is certainly not a free one as the regulations that do exist are all weighted against free enterprise and non domestic business users. Privatisation was supposed to give more choice but it has just given us two, bad or worse.

Regards

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