FutureConsumers@ofgem.gov.uk

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ICoSS response to Statutory Consultation Supply licence simplification

The Industrial and Commercial Shippers and Suppliers (ICoSS) group is the trade body representing non-domestic industrial and commercial (I&C) suppliers in the GB energy market[i].

Please note our responses concern the non-domestic retail sector only.

Question 1: Do you agree with amending the wording of unused SLCs to one consistent term "Not in use" and other proposed minor drafting amendments to SLC titles?

Yes

Question 2: Do you agree SLC 25D of the electricity supply licence and SLC 28A, 28AA and 32A of the electricity and gas supply licences have historic end dates that have not been extended? If so, do you agree that they should be removed?

We have not commented on this question as it relates to the domestic market

Question 3: Do you agree that SLC 25E of the electricity supply licence is no longer relevant and could be removed?

We have not commented on this question as it relates to the domestic market

Question 4: Do you agree that SLC 21A of the electricity and gas supply licences is no longer relevant and could be removed?

Yes

Question 5: Do you agree that SLC 56, of the electricity supply licence & SLC 50 of the gas supply licence, are no longer relevant and could be removed?

Yes

Question 6: Do you agree with consolidating definitions within SLC 1, as much as possible?

Yes, we believe that such a move would be beneficial in that it provides a consolidated view of the licence .

We note that there seems to be two definitions of Domestic Premises in the gas licence; one solely for SLC4B and one for the rest of the licence . If interpretated at face value we believe the SLC4B definition would require all non-domestic gas suppliers to start working to the requirements of Capital Floor and Capital Target obligations set out in SLC4B.16-SLC4B.22 and ringfencing customer credit balances at required under SLC4B.23-SLC4B.26. This obligation is not replicated in the electricity supply licence and does not align with the intentions of the consultation held when these obligations were introduced. We also do not believe that many suppliers are operating to this standard and are not aware of Ofgem ever looking to enforce in this area.

We believe this duplicate definition to be a mistake owing to an historical error in drafting. We request that Ofgem take this opportunity to correct this manifest error.

Question 7: Do you agree, or have any comments on, our proposed modifications to the licence?

We welcome any simplification of the current licence drafting and believe this represents a positive way forward. We hope that future licence drafting will continue to apply to these principles (in particular limiting definitions to SLC 1) to avoid the need for a repetition of this exercise. We also would welcome a more detailed review of the licence to address issues in section C (such as the multiple redundant licence conditions that relate to the smart metering programme) and more generally to improve the readability of the licence.