

Dear Indra,

I am very sorry that I have missed the deadline for responding to Joanna's letter of 26 February. I have been away on business for the last couple of days and have had problems with my normal dial-up access to the UU IT systems.

We believe it is very important to ensure consistency of treatment of licensed network operators and therefore do not support the proposal in Joanna's letter. However we do agree that the real issue to address is the impact of cherry picking by independent network operators on the vast majority of customers who are connected to the original network licensees. Our thoughts were set out in the attached letter sent to Martin Crouch last year.

Mike

Mike Boxall  
Electricity Regulation Director  
United Utilities plc  
Haweswater House  
Lingley Green Avenue  
Great Sankey  
Warrington  
WA5 3LP