

Joanna Whittington
Director Gas Distribution
Ofgem
9 Millbank
London SW1P 3GE

24 July 2007

Dear Ms Whittington

Gas Distribution Price Control Review

Age Concern England (the National Council on Ageing) brings together Age Concern organisations working at a local level and 100 national bodies, including charities, professional bodies and representational groups with an interest in older people and ageing issues. Through our national information line, which receives 170,000 telephone and postal enquiries a year, and the information services offered by local Age Concern organisations, we are in day to day contact with older people and their concerns. We are pleased to comment on the current consultation with regard to the Gas Distribution Price Control.

Our main concern relates to section 7 of the document, sustainable development. Due to our particular interest in alleviating fuel poverty, we have been interested in any possibility of extending the gas network since this is a much cheaper fuel than either oil or gas. Age Concern therefore supports Ofgem's proposal to include extending the gas network under Option 6 in the consultation paper which is seen to provide the best means of securing network extensions to fuel poor communities.

Age Concern was pleased to have been invited to join the panel of judges on the Electricity Distribution Discretionary Reward Scheme in the first two years of its operation, 2006 and 2007. It was clear from the applications received for this award in 2007 that it has led to a substantial improvement in both policies and attitudes

toward consumers of the electricity distribution companies. We therefore support the proposal to set up a similar scheme for the gas distribution companies.

Yours sincerely

Gretel Jones

Consumer Affairs Policy Adviser