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OFGEM APPOINTS NEW HEAD OF PROFESSION FOR ENGINEERING

Energy regulator Ofgem has today (Monday) appointed Gareth Evans as head of profession for engineering.

Ofgem employs a number of engineers across the organisation to help ensure that its policy development and decisions take proper account of technical issues. The new post has been created to provide a focal point for this group of professionals and to ensure Ofgem's engineering capability is developed to meet its current and future needs. Engineers have an important role to play in many aspects of Ofgem's work such as in the setting of the five-year price controls for the gas and electricity network companies and advising on policy relating to the regulation of networks and metering.

Gareth, who has worked for Ofgem since 2002, will retain his position as a technical adviser to Ofgem's distribution directorate. He has over 30 years experience in the UK electricity supply industry and during his career he has worked in transmission, distribution, electricity generation and the development of electricity storage.

Alistair Buchanan, Ofgem Chief Executive, said: "I am pleased to announce Gareth's appointment. He has made an important contribution to Ofgem's work, particularly in the development of incentives to encourage innovation within energy network companies. An important part of Gareth's new role will be to ensure that the organisation continues to engage effectively in the work that is being done by engineers in the energy industry."

Gareth is a Chartered Engineer and is an active member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology where he chairs the Environment & Energy Expert Group and sits on the Energy Sector Panel.

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Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets, which supports the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, the regulator of the gas and electricity industries in Great Britain. The Authority's powers and duties are largely provided for in statute, principally the Gas Act 1986, the Electricity Act 1989, the Utilities Act 2000, the Competition Act 1998, the Enterprise Act 2002, the Energy Act 2004 as well as arising from directly effective European Community legislation.

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