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Ofgem consultation: Tackling gas theft

Gas Forum response

The Gas Forum welcomes the consultation and associated impact assessment published by Ofgem.

Gas theft continues to be a problem and in some cases can have a devastating impact on human life. For this reason alone, the industry has a duty to ensure that theft is speedily identified and remedied. The Gas Forum is fully committed to playing its part in introducing measures which will achieve these aims.

Beyond this stark reality, theft also imposes unfair costs on those consumers who responsibly contract and pay for their consumption.

In response to this challenge the Gas Forum has taken a lead role in supporting the development of one of the reform options currently available to Ofgem, the introduction of the NRPS. Regardless of the eventual reform option chosen by Ofgem, The Gas Forum is of the view that the identification of theft is one of the major obstacles to reducing the incidence of theft and that a regulatory framework which supports and encourages the identification of theft is a key output from this process.

The Gas Forum supports the adoption of an approach to theft detection which will culminate in the introduction of a framework which will advance an effective deployment of resources in the identification and resolution of the incidences of theft.

The Gas Forum is continuing to support the industry's work on achieving these goals by arranging for Privacy Impact Assessments on the various proposals. We believe this will add valuable information to the Ofgem decision making process ahead of their final decision.

In terms of the drafting contained in Appendix 3 the Gas Forum is happy with the thrust of the drafting in as much as it reflects policy intent, members of the Gas Forum will, however, provide individual comments on the detail.

In the meantime if you require any further clarity on our response please contact the Gas Forum using the details above.

David Faragher (Chair of the Gas Forum)