

Statement

7 February 2012

Response to Which?'s announcement on collective energy purchasing

A spokesperson from Ofgem said: "We welcome Which?'s initiative on collective switching and we are part of the DECC working group looking at how it can be developed in Britain, learning from the experience of other European countries.

"Collective switching could offer customers more options on how they engage with the energy market, alongside Ofgem's proposed reforms for making the market much simpler to understand. Our proposals include simplifying the number and structure of tariffs and new rules to improve and standardise information energy suppliers send customers, for example in bills. We are also proposing tougher standards of conduct on suppliers.

"Research by Ipsos MORI published this week by Ofgem again shows that consumers support the need for clearer, easier to understand information from energy suppliers."

Which?'s press statement is here:

<http://www.which.co.uk/news/2012/02/join-the-big-switch-to-cut-your-energy-bills-278444/>

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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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