

Dear Andrew MacFaul,

I understand that a consultation is taking place about fuel tariffs. This fact is not widely known, making it a bit of a sham.

Anyone who has engaged in their fuel bill will now what a travesty of fairness the current system is. It appears to be utterly loaded towards the profits of these enormous utility companies.

These are my objections:

1. The pricing structures are so complicated that it is impossible to understand or to make comparisons between different providers. To get the best price you have to phone up the helpline and trust that the person on the other end is not cheating you.
2. Because each company has different price banding systems, comparisons are not possible.
3. Why a "standing charge" plus different charging bands for rates of consumption? This is patently inequitable: the lowest consumers (single and older people?) pay most. Does it cost more pro rata to deliver 100Kwh than 200 Kwh? Other businesses do not have such a standing charge.
4. Each of the big companies has a multitude of tariffs, again each one with many different criteria. If I go on to a comparison website and click on "tariff" for my particular company, a band of perhaps 30 charging schemes comes up with obscure labels. I have no idea which one I am currently signed up to.

All of these things are confusing to the consumer - we need a clear and transparent system.

We need a simple unit price, without a standing charge then we can read our meters and work out the bill, and know what we have spent. And whether we would do better with another company.

Please put this case very strongly!

Yours sincerely,

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