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Richmond, Monday, 04 March 2013

Subject: WINGAS UK's Response to Ofgem's Consultation on the Smart Metering Installation Code of Practice

Dear Jonathan,

WINGAS UK welcomes the opportunity to participate on the consultation regarding the Smart Metering Code of Practice. Whilst smart metering is not of critical importance to WINGAS UK's portfolio or business plan, WINGAS recognises smart metering as a hugely important programme to domestic consumers and some small businesses.

WINGAS recognises the work that has gone into making the SMICoP fair and equitable and is satisfied with the code as a whole as evident by WINGAS UK's status as a signatory to the code and position on SISG in the Microbusiness constituency.

Because WINGAS UK does not currently supply any sites that qualify for smart metering and is concentrating primarily on installation of Advanced Meter Reading (AMR) devices, it would be inappropriate for WINGAS UK to answer the specific questions to suppliers in the consultation.

We have noted with interest that in terms of progress there are approximately 1 million AMR loggers installed by energy suppliers and ASPs so far with on-going installation projects throughout the I&C supplier community. Conversely there are only 4 thousand Smart meters installed. WINGAS UK sees this as a clear indication that there is

continued consumer appetite for AMR and feels that the progress that been made with AMR should be allowed to progress unhindered.

Under these circumstances we do not think that it would be appropriate for smart metering to undermine the progress made with AMR – specifically sites where AMR is already installed should not be mandated for smart metering installation. WINGAS is also of the opinion that not all small business would benefit to a greater extent from smart metering over AMR and recognises that in many cases AMR is a much better and more desirable solution.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Rob Johnson
Metering & Regulation Manager