LCN Fund Full Submission

Supplementary Answer Form

Tick if this answer is Confidential: ☐

Tick if this answer has been provided verbally: ☒

Project code:	SSET206	Question Number	20
Question date	03 October 2013	Answer date	11 October 2013
Submission section question relates to	Expert panel bilateral		
Topic	Learning		
Question	There is a considerable amount of observable data from the Household Budget Survey, and other sources, on energy use by household and socioeconomic group. Please elaborate how these trials will add to the data that is already available.		
Notes on question			
Answer	Dr Anderson of The University of Southampton has carried out a large amount of research with the Office for National Statistics' Household Expenditure Survey (now called the Living Costs and Food Survey) and our partners all have experience of other sources of information on energy use by households and socioeconomic groups. The feedback from Dr Anderson is that whilst the Household Survey is a good source of information for the SAVE studies, the analysis of the SAVE trials will add to the data already available. This assessment is explained below. The Living Costs & Food Survey is a cross-sectional survey **asking** customers what their expenditure is on electricity, gas, etc. based on their most recent bill, allowing you to work out the monthly or yearly expenditure for a given household and thus for a given socio-economic group. The downside of the LCFS survey: • converting 'last bill size' to energy use is prone to all sorts of error • people may not recall/answer correctly (Dr Anderson has plenty of evidence for this from water)		

	• people paying by direct debit (who are most likely to get it right as it is CONSTANT) have no link between bill size and energy consumption 'last month' (so no seasonal variation). They may also have monthly payments that have yet to be adjusted up/down so may bear very little relation to actual consumption • without knowing what tariff/package & which supplier (the LCFS does not ask that) it is impossible to know what price they actually pay and thus how to convert accurately to kWh. The SAVE project, however, is not solely interested in the overall energy use by household and socioeconomic group, it is seeking to answer questions regarding changes in behaviour, and therefore demand, at different times of day over different seasons, in response to different price signals, in response to a range of campaigns, and in response to a technological/ intervention. Therefore we believe that the information available from the Household Expenditure Survey, although useful, will not be sufficient for the requirements of the SAVE project and we feel the outputs from the SAVE trials and customer modelling will add value to the market and this area of study.
Attachments	
Verbal Clarifications (Consultants)	