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19th March 2014

Wales & West Utilities response to consultation dated 6th February 2014 - Changes to the stakeholder engagement incentive guidance document.

Dear James,

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the modified stakeholder engagement incentive guidance. We support the proposed changes within this document for the reasons detailed below. In addition to the consultation on updated guidance, it is important to ensure that the funding proposal is appropriate and I draw your attention to the joint response submitted by the GDN's dated 29th January 2014 which we would like to be considered in parallel to this response.

In reference to the consultation areas ;

Providing more guidance on the amount of supplementary information that a company should submit under the stakeholder engagement incentive.

We support this proposal, particularly if linked to the ability to ask supplementary questions. If reference were made in the submission to a document not submitted as part of the supplementary information, we would support the request for this to be provided before making a decision about whether the company has met the minimum requirements.

Adding a mechanism to give us the ability to ask supplementary questions on a company's Stakeholder Engagement Incentive Submission, before making a decision about whether it has met the minimum requirements.

We support this proposal, along with the publication of supplementary questions and answers. Particularly in the early years of the incentive, this opportunity will allow lessons to be learned around evidencing minimum requirements.

Removing reference to specific regulatory years and specific types of network company.

The removal of specific regulatory years and reference to type of network company allows the proposed draft to become an enduring document, facilitating benchmarking across all types of network company which we support.

24 hour gas escape number
Rhif 24 awr os bydd nwy yn gollwng

0800 111 999*

*calls will be recorded and may be monitored
caiff galwadau eu recordio a gellir eu monitro

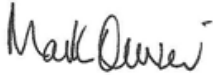
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Registered in England and Wales: No. 5046791

However, your letter states, "separate guidance documents will be issued for electricity distribution, gas distribution and transmission." We would be grateful if you could confirm that once approved, this version is applicable to all network companies until we are notified otherwise.

In addition, we would like to use this opportunity to again stress that we do not feel a 15-20 minute window within which to present is appropriate. Similarly, the move from "five or six voting members" to "at least four" potentially reduces the breadth of view and experience brought to bear within the decision making process.

We look forward to continuing to work alongside you to implement the scheme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Oliver".

Mark Oliver
Director of Business Services