

Received by email on from SAHA

Dear Pete Wightman

Please see our response to the questions detailed below

Question 1: Do you agree with our proposed approach for the FPNES? Please state why or why not.

No. As many of our residents are in fuel poverty, they are the very people we should be helping. We have personally experienced residents failing to engage in submitting application for funded gas supplies, even though we know that they qualify and have therefore missed out on funding to get gas supplies to their properties. We hold enough data on our residents and we should therefore be able to apply on their behalf.

Question 2: Are there any consequences that we have not appropriately considered in our proposal?

If implemented, we feel that this would disadvantage the very people that this scheme has been designed to help.

Question 3: Is there any other evidence we should consider in making our decision? If so, please provide it.

As detailed above, the exercise of applying for funded gas mains should be a simple and straight forward process. By asking residents to supply qualifying database, in our experience, has discouraged them to apply for the very thing that we should be helping them with i.e. getting them out of fuel poverty. There is enough information held by various agencies that would enable the application to be a desk-top exercise.

Question 4: Do you consider 1 April 2018 to be an achievable timescale for the eligibility criteria to change?

No

Question 5: Do you consider a transition period to be appropriate? If so, do you agree with our proposed timescale?

No. We feel that the status quo should continue

Question 6: Are there any other transition elements we should consider?

No. Continue with IMD in its present format

Regards

Dean Sitton

Capital Projects Manager

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