

Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill - Addendum to Public Consultation Summary Document

The consultation summary document on the Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill, published by the Department for the Economy in April 2025, noted that officials were giving further consideration to the issue of funding the Bill, and potential impacts for licence holders and consumers.

The Department worked closely with the Utility Regulator on the issue, and it has been confirmed that the organisation can resource costs for work associated with the Bill from electricity and gas licence fees, when that work falls within functions under electricity and gas legislation.

Electricity and gas licences include conditions permitting the UR to recover, via fees charged to licence holders, the costs of performing its electricity and gas functions.

Should the Department wish the Utility Regulator to provide support that is outside the scope of statutory electricity and gas functions, that work cannot be funded by licence fees. In that instance the Utility Regulator will engage with the Department and Department of Finance to discuss implications on the public purse.

A regulatory impact assessment has been published alongside this addendum.

Department for the Economy

April 2026