



The Consumer Council

Elizabeth House
116 Hollywood Road
Belfast
BT4 1NY

Alison Shortt
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,
Room 47
Netherleigh House,
Massey Avenue,
Belfast

30 January 2014

Dear Alison

**Re: FURTHER SUBMISSION TO DETI CONSULTATION ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRICITY AND GAS METERING AND BILLING
PROVISIONS OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY DIRECTIVE
(2012/27/EU)**

The Consumer Council (CCNI) appreciates the opportunity to provide a further submission to the above consultation.

CCNI has given full consideration to DECC's consultation Implementing the Energy Efficiency Directive provisions on gas and electricity billing January 2014 and examined again DETI's own consultation. CCNI believes that DECC and DETI's implementation plans as outlined in their respective consultation documents are reflective of the different regulatory frameworks and retail market regimes in GB and Northern Ireland respectively.

Broadly speaking, CCNI is of the opinion that DECC's consultation paper should not have any significant bearing in DETI's proposals to implement the Energy Efficiency Directive in Northern Ireland. However, CCNI has identified two issues relevant to consumers as outlined below. CCNI asks DETI to consider these alongside our original response as it was sent on 6 December 2013.

- In the section about access to consumption data relating to Articles 10.3(a) and 11.1 of the Directive, DECC makes a distinction between historical consumption data and consumption data for the current billing period. Under DECC's proposals suppliers wouldn't be required to provide historic data free of charge.

CCNI calls on DETI again to ensure that their definition of "free of charge" includes historic data. In our view this is in line with Article 11(1) of the Directive that requires Member States to ensure that "final customers also have access to their consumption data (...) free of charge". This is in addition to providing "bills and billing information for energy consumption free of charge".

If DETI was to agree with DECC's interpretation we would ask the Department to provide evidence to support their decision, including reference to any legal advice received.

- DECC makes the distinction throughout their consultation paper between provisions for domestic and non domestic consumers. CCNI asks DETI to provide more information on the applicability of their proposals to non domestic customers; in particular small and medium businesses.

CCNI reiterates once again its willingness and commitment to continue working with DETI, Utility Regulator and energy suppliers to ensure the effective implementation of the billing and metering provisions of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Yours sincerely

PAULINO GARCIA
Consumer Affairs Officer (energy)