

From the office of the Chief Executive

15 March 2022 Common Utility Regulator Letter No: 5 To: The Chief Executive

Ref CURL5

Relevant licence holders re: heightened cyber security risk

Dear Sirs,

The National Cyber Security Centre recently<sup>1</sup> called on organisations in the UK to bolster their online defences, following the Russian attack on Ukraine.

The Network and Information Systems Regulations 2018 (NIS Regulations) imposes obligations on the Operators of Essential Services (OES), which includes electricity, gas and water operators, through the Competent Authority<sup>2</sup>, which is the Department of Finance.

We advise you to review the guidance<sup>3</sup> issued by the NCSC on steps to take when the cyber threat is heightened and to continue to follow the guidance<sup>4</sup> from the Competent Authority.

Yours sincerely,

1. Chenel

**Chief Executive** 

Utility Regulator

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/organisations-urged-to-bolster-defences</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/security-network-information-systems</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/actions-to-take-when-the-cyber-threat-is-heightened

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/guidance-network-information-systems-</u>regulations-2018.pdf



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