

Paul Harland
Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast
BT1 6ED



19 September 2013

Consultation Response on price control for Northern Ireland's gas distribution networks

Dear Paul

The Energy Saving Trust welcomes the opportunity to respond on the above consultation. With 20 years' experience in the domestic energy efficiency sector we have built up a unique knowledge of consumer behaviour and energy policy insight which informs our work in Northern Ireland.

The Energy Saving Trust continues to support the installation of high efficiency heating systems in Northern Ireland to help reduce carbon emissions and user's running costs. Continued investment in the gas network is vital to ensure a steady boiler replacement 'industry' to enable consumers to access the highest efficiency, lowest carbon fossil fuel heating systems where alternative low carbon solutions are not available.

With a high efficiency A-rated gas boiler with controls saving, on average, £415 and 1,600kg carbon dioxide per year when compared to an inefficient G-rated oil boiler, continuing investment in the gas network as a stimulus to lower-carbon energy use cannot be overstated. In addition, the inbuilt obligation to install high efficiency boilers as part of licence agreements ensures that energy efficiency is maximised when compared to oil, where no obligation exists when installing new boilers – a further catalyst for lower carbon heating installations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Thompson".

Patrick Thompson
Operations Manager
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