RETAIL MARKET MONITORING

Quarterly Transparency Report

Quarter 1: January to March 2018

Published 31st May 2018



Abstract

This paper is the latest of a series of Utility Regulator (UR) reports – the Quarterly Transparency Reports (QTRs) – that provide a range of information about the retail energy market in Northern Ireland (NI).

The data relates mainly to market shares, market activity and domestic prices in the electricity and gas retail markets. The data also includes information on non-domestic, or industrial and commercial (I&C), electricity prices.

We collect and monitor market information through the Retail Energy Market Monitoring (REMM) framework.

The information shown in this report comes from network companies, suppliers and Eurostat. Some figures have been calculated internally.

These reports are released at the end of the second month after each calendar quarter (in Feb, May, Aug and Nov).

Audience

Electricity and gas industry, associations of consumers, regulators, statistical bodies, suppliers, potential new market entrants, consultants, researchers and journalists.

Consumer impact

The information used to produce these reports allows us to monitor the retail market, flag potential concerns and to inform regulatory decisions. All of this directly impacts on consumers. This set of reports increases transparency for consumers on matters of their direct interest, such as the active suppliers in each energy market sector, and NI prices compared against other jurisdictions.

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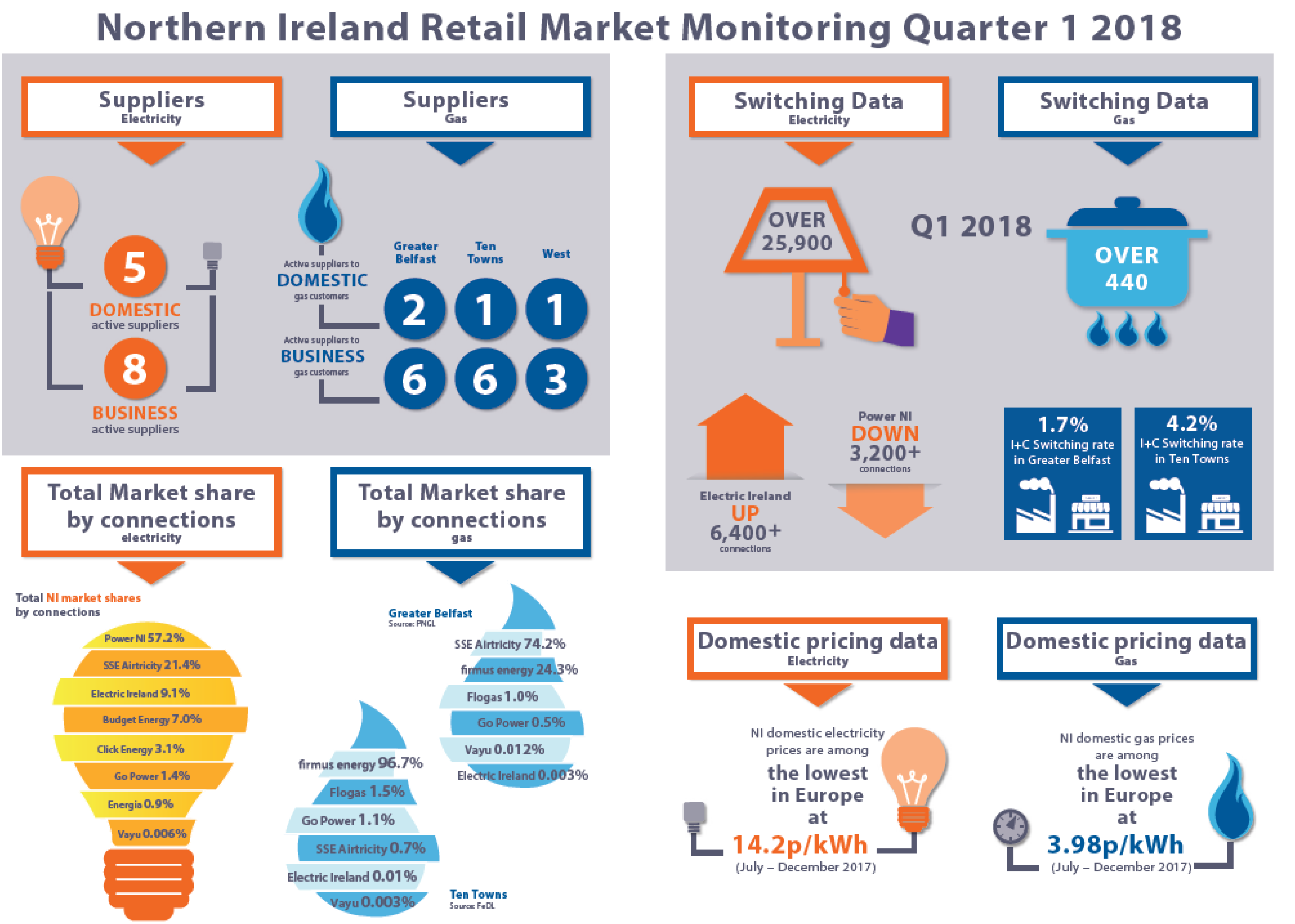
1 Summary of key market indicators



1.1 Key developments during Quarter 1 2018

1. The semester 2 (July - December) 2017 electricity pricing data is sourced from Eurostat and individual supplier's submissions under the REMM framework. The current pricing data illustrates the following:
   - NI domestic electricity prices continue to rank amongst the lowest in Europe at 14.2 p/kWh and are considerably lower than the Republic of Ireland (21.0 p/kWh), the EU median (17.8p/kWh) and the UK (16.5 p/kWh).
   - NI I&C electricity prices for the Very Small connections (which represent 67% of I&C connections) remain among the lowest in Europe. The NI price at 13.0 p/kWh is lower than the EU median (15.2 p/kWh), the Republic of Ireland (17.7 p/kWh) and the UK (14.3 p/kWh).
   - For large I&C customers, prices are now equal to those in RoI and are lower than in the UK overall.
2. The domestic gas prices in NI are amongst the lowest in Europe at 3.98 p/kWh. This is less than RoI at 5.78 p/kWh and the rest of the UK at 4.27 p/kWh.
3. Market activity in the electricity domestic and I&C sectors continues to illustrate a gradual change in the market dynamics. Power NI (the incumbent price controlled electricity supplier) retain their dominant position with 58.2% of connections in the domestic market with continued growth of the competing suppliers.
4. Electricity switching activity in Q1 2018 is marginally down from the previous quarter. Some domestic customers continue to engage in the electricity market with 24,800 switches completed during Q1 2018 which is a 3.1% quarterly switching rate (a decrease from 3.6% in Q4 2017). I&C electricity switching decreased to a switching rate of 1.6% (from 2.7% in the previous quarter).
5. In the gas sector, I&C switching activity decreased in the Greater Belfast area whilst increasing in the Ten Towns I&C market. The I&C switching rate was 1.7% in Greater Belfast and 4.2% in the Ten Towns (compared to 2.3% and 2.2% respectively in Q4 2017).
6. This is the first QTR where gas connection and consumption data is presented for the new West gas distribution area. Data will continue to evolve over the coming quarterly publications.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose, methodology and data sources

The purpose of this report is to deliver transparency for stakeholders and consumers, providing readers with readily accessible information on the evolution and performance of Northern Ireland (NI) electricity and natural gas retail sectors.

The Quarterly Transparency Reports (QTRs) are one of the tools we use to communicate some of the main indicators we monitor in the retail energy markets. We protect consumers by promoting effective competition wherever appropriate, and by monitoring the markets. Therefore, monitoring the retail markets is key when complying with our statutory duties.

The framework in which this set of quarterly reports lies is called Retail Energy Market Monitoring (REMM) which was introduced in July 2015. The ultimate objective of introducing this enhanced framework was to develop the current monitoring of retail indicators, and to provide increased transparency in the retail energy markets in NI. As a result of this framework, there have been a number of changes made to the format of this publication and how some of the indicators are presented. We will continue to make changes as appropriate to represent the new indicators that we are monitoring under REMM.

The main data sources for this QTR are as follows:

- Connections and consumption, market shares and market activity information is provided by the network companies:
  - Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIEN) for electricity data; and
  - Phoenix Natural Gas Limited (PNGL), firmus energy (Distribution) Limited (feDL) and Scotia Gas Networks Northern Ireland (SGN) for gas data.
- EU domestic and I&C electricity prices are from Eurostat. NI domestic and I&C electricity prices are derived directly from REMM data submitted by suppliers. NI domestic gas prices are also derived from REMM data submitted by suppliers.

2.2 Energy suppliers in NI energy market

The electricity and gas (in the Greater Belfast area) markets have been open to competition to domestic customers since 2007. However, there were no competing suppliers in the domestic market until 2010.

The Ten Towns area opened to gas competition for large I&C customers (those consuming over 732,000 kWh per annum) in October 2012, and to domestic and small I&C customers in April 2015.

The first gas connection to the new West[1] gas distribution area was a large I&C user during Q1 2017. This is the first QTR where the connection and consumption data in the West has been published. We plan to gradually develop the publication of the data for the West as this network area grows.

[1] It is anticipated that gas in the West distribution area will be developed as per Annex 2, Part 3 of the Scotia Gas Networks Northern Ireland licence.

Table 2 Suppliers in the Retail Market

End of Q1 2018

	Network Operator							
	NIEN		PNGL		feDL		SGN	
	Electricity		Gas Greater Belfast		Gas Ten Towns		Gas West	
	Dom	I&C	Dom	I&C	Dom	I&C	Dom	I&C
Budget Energy	💡	💡						
Click Energy	💡	💡						
Electric Ireland	💡	💡		🔥		🔥		🔥
Energia		💡						
firmus energy			🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥		
Flogas				🔥		🔥		🔥
Go Power		💡		🔥		🔥		
Power NI	💡	💡						
SSE Airtricity	💡	💡	🔥	🔥		🔥	🔥	🔥
Vayu		💡		🔥		🔥		
Suppliers	**5**	**8**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**3**

Source: UR

During the first quarter of 2018 there were **eight** suppliers in the electricity market and **six** suppliers in the gas market although not all of these suppliers are certified to operate in all sectors (or in all gas distribution areas).

The detail of the dates of entry for the suppliers in each of the retail market segments is available in Annex A.

For more information about the retail energy market in NI, please visit: http://www.uregni.gov.uk/retail/.

2.3 Electricity wholesale market monitoring data

Readers should also be aware of the Quarterly Market Monitoring Report which provides an overview of the SEM and sets out recent trends in the market in relation to pricing, demand, scheduling and contract prices. It focuses in particular on the wholesale element of electricity prices, which makes up roughly 60% of customers' bills. These reports[2] are prepared by the Market Monitoring Unit (MMU) within the UR in joint collaboration with the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU).

[2] SEM Monitoring Report Q4 2017, published January 2018.

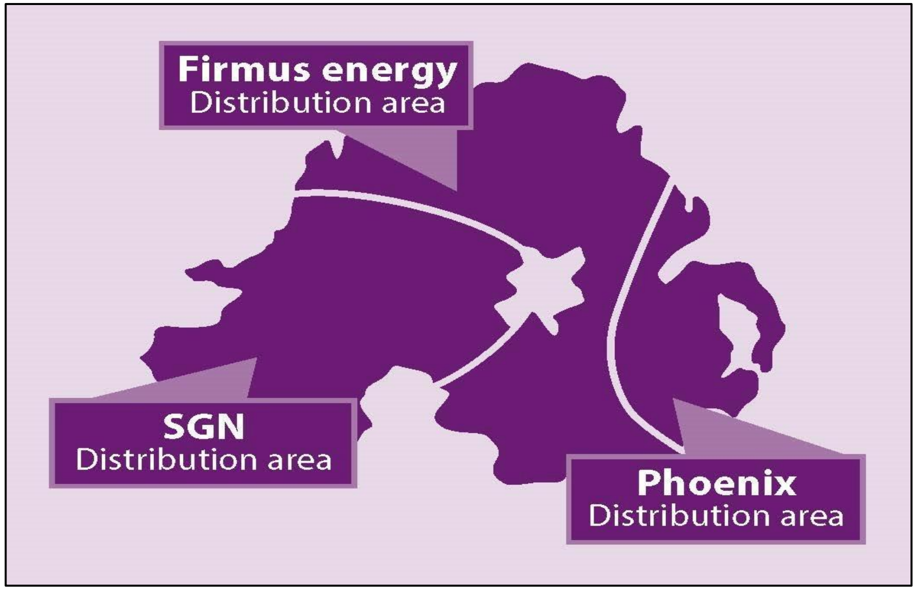
2.4 Northern Ireland gas market overview

The gas distribution network licensees are responsible for the medium and low pressure mains that convey to the licensed areas throughout Northern Ireland. There are three Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) who operate in separate distribution areas as illustrated on the map which follows:

- firmus energy (Distribution) Ltd (feDL) from the North West through the Central region to the Southern areas of Northern Ireland;
- Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd (PNGL) mainly Greater Belfast, Larne and a recent extension into East Down; and
- SGN Natural Gas Ltd (SGN NG) in the West of Northern Ireland.

Each DNO owns and manages the natural gas distribution network in their distribution area. Those companies who supply gas (suppliers) pay the relevant DNO a fee to transport natural gas, and then sell it straight to the consumer. Although a DNO is responsible for making sure the natural gas reaches individual homes, it is the responsibility of the gas supplier to bill consumers for the gas they use.

Figure 1: Gas Distribution Licenced Areas



3 Electricity

3.1 NI connections and total consumption

The table below shows electricity customer numbers[3] at end March 2018 and consumption from January to March 2018.

Table 3 Electricity connections and consumption per market segment

Q1 2018

Customer groups	Number of connections	% share of connections in market sector	Consumption (GWh)	% share of consumption in market sector
Domestic prepayment	353,928	44.1%	354.0	42.3%
Domestic credit	448,304	55.9%	483.0	57.7%
Total Domestic	**802,232**	**100%**	**837.0**	**100%**
I&C < 20 MWh	48,721	66.9%	105.2	7.8%
I&C 20 – 49 MWh	13,104	18.0%	123.7	9.2%
I&C 50 – 499 MWh	9,904	13.6%	370.9	27.6%
I&C 500 – 1,999 MWh	830	1.1%	211.3	15.7%
I&C 2,000 – 19,999 MWh	257	0.4%	346.4	25.8%
I&C ≥ 20,000 MWh	20	0.03%	186.3	13.8%
Total I&C	**72,836**	**100%**	**1,343.9**	**100%**
Total	**875,068**		**2,180.9**	

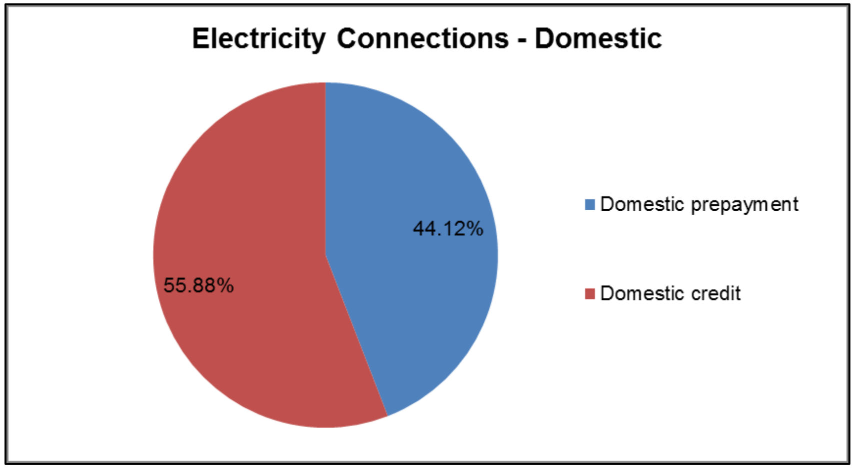
Source: NIEN

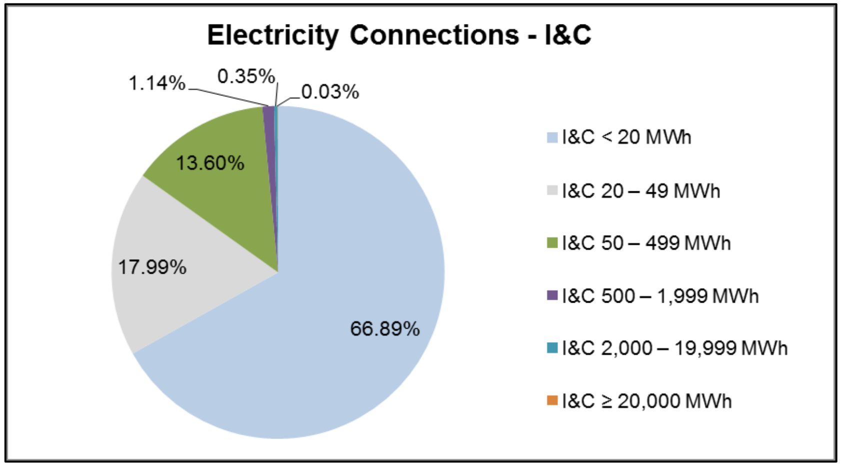
Of the total customers in Northern Ireland, 92% belong to the domestic sector, while the remaining 8% are I&C customers. In this quarter, this share translates into 38% and 62% in terms of consumption.

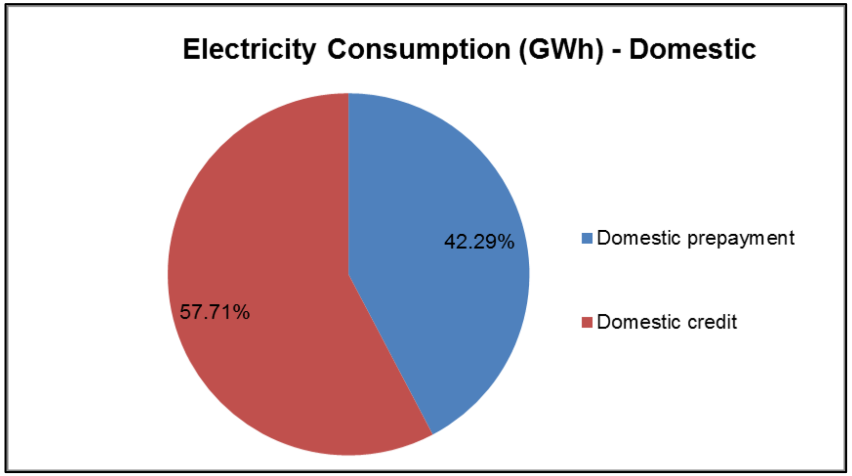
Within the domestic sector, 44.1% of the market use prepayment meters and 55.9% pay by credit (by connections).

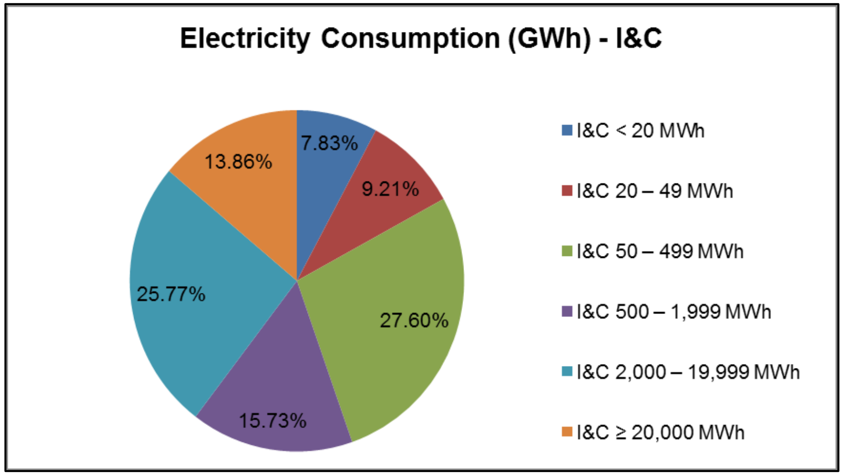
Within the I&C sector, more than 99.9% of the customers are small and medium enterprises (consuming less than 19,999 MWh), with 86.1% of the I&C consumption. The remaining are Large Energy Users (LEU) connections, that represent 8.5% of the total NI volume in this quarter, and 13.8% of the I&C consumption.

[3] Note that long term vacant sites are not included in connection numbers, and that combined premises are included in the <20MWh category


Electricity Connections - Domestic
44.12%
55.88%
Domestic prepayment
Domestic credit


Electricity Connections - I&C
1.14%
0.35%
0.03%
13.60%
17.99%
66.89%
I&C < 20 MWh
I&C 20 – 49 MWh
I&C 50 – 499 MWh
I&C 500 – 1,999 MWh
I&C 2,000 – 19,999 MWh
I&C ≥ 20,000 MWh


Electricity Consumption (GWh) - Domestic
42.29%
57.71%
Domestic prepayment
Domestic credit


Electricity Consumption (GWh) - I&C
7.83%
13.86%
9.21%
25.77%
27.60%
15.73%
I&C < 20 MWh
I&C 20 – 49 MWh
I&C 50 – 499 MWh
I&C 500 – 1,999 MWh
I&C 2,000 – 19,999 MWh
I&C ≥ 20,000 MWh

3.2 Electricity Market shares

Electricity shares by connections[4]

During the quarter there were five domestic electricity suppliers in NI, and eight active suppliers in the I&C electricity market. The total number of domestic customers at the end of Q1 2018 was 802,232. As is evident from the table below a significant number of domestic customers (58.2%) remain with the previously incumbent supplier Power NI. The introduction of a number of new suppliers and the associated increase in competition indicates that the dynamic of the domestic market is gradually changing.

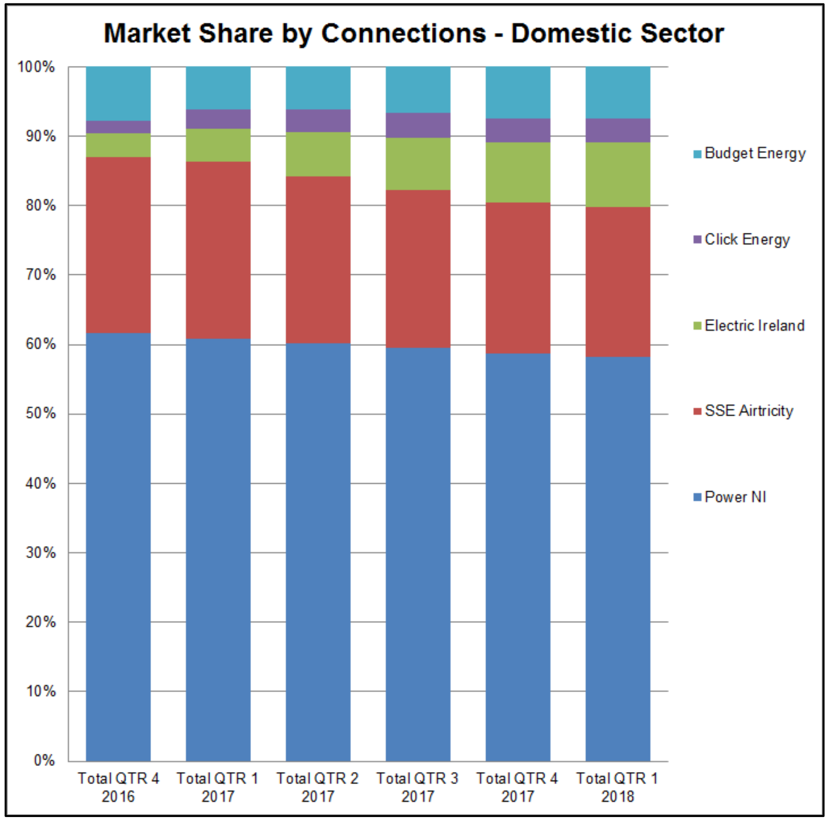


Table 4 Domestic market shares by connections

End of Q1 2018

Domestic Suppliers	Domestic Prepayment		Domestic Credit		Domestic Total	
Power NI	158,583	44.8%	308,262	68.8%	466,845	58.2%
SSE Airtricity	80,239	22.7%	93,033	20.8%	173,272	21.6%
Electric Ireland	39,631	11.2%	35,461	7.9%	75,092	9.4%
Click Energy	24,622	7.0%	2,390	0.5%	27,012	3.4%
Budget Energy	50,853	14.4%	9,158	2.0%	60,011	7.5%
Dom Market	**353,928**	**100%**	**448,304**	**100%**	**802,232**	**100%**

Source: NIEN

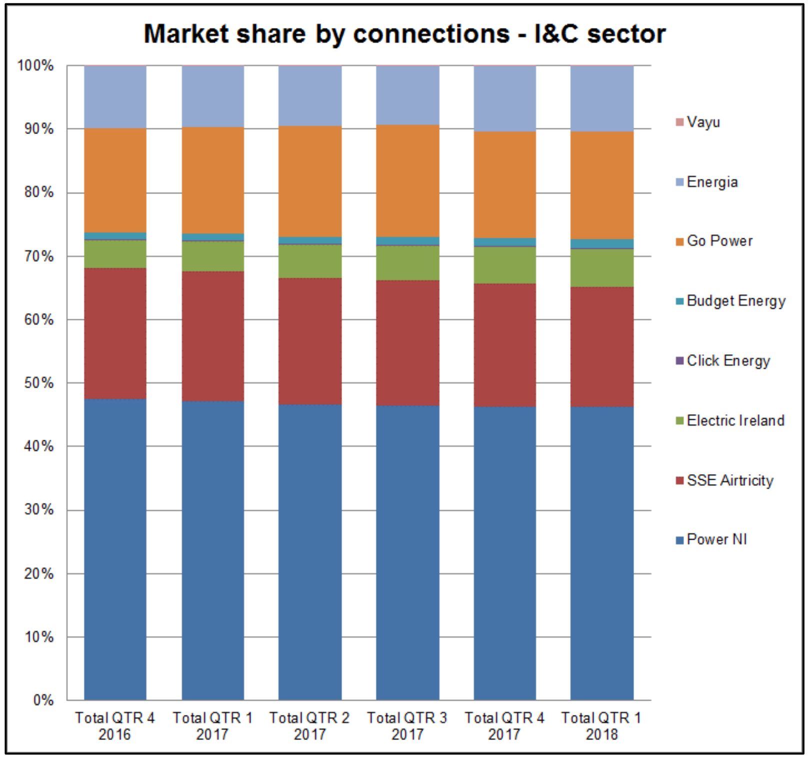
The market shares in this quarter illustrate a marginal decrease for Power NI. For Q1 2018 Power NI supplied 44.8% of the domestic prepayment and 68.8% of the domestic credit market. This shows a decrease from the last quarter and also from the same period in 2017 when Power NI held 47.1% of the domestic prepayment and 71.3% of the domestic credit connections. The continued growth of the new entrants in the domestic market is clear, given that the non-incumbents now represent over 41.8% of total domestic connections in NI (an increase from 39.2% in the same period last year).

[4] Market shares figures do not include de-energised nor Long Term Vacant sites.

Table 5 I&C market shares by connections

End of Q1 2018

I&C Suppliers	I&C < 20 MWh		I&C 20 – 49 MWh		I&C 50 – 499 MWh		I&C 500 – 1,999 MWh		I&C 2,000 – 19,999 MWh		I&C ≥ 20,000 MWh		I&C Total	
Power NI	26,336	54.1%	4,542	34.7%	2,695	27.2%	97	11.7%	18	7.0%	0	0%	33,688	46.3%
SSE Airtricity	8,744	17.9%	3,130	23.9%	1,715	17.3%	107	12.9%	25	9.7%	5	25.0%	13,726	18.8%
Go Power	7,139	14.7%	2,507	19.1%	2,346	23.7%	272	32.8%	75	29.2%	5	25.0%	12,344	16.9%
Electric Ireland	2,099	4.3%	851	6.5%	1,211	12.2%	123	14.8%	54	21.0%	5	25.0%	4,343	6.0%
Energia	3,602	7.4%	1,853	14.1%	1,783	18.0%	224	27.0%	80	31.1%	5	25.0%	7,547	10.4%
Budget Energy	637	1.3%	202	1.5%	130	1.3%	1	0.1%	1	0.4%	0	0%	971	1.3%
Vayu	36	0.07%	1	0.01%	7	0.07%	6	0.7%	3	1.2%	0	0%	53	0.07%
Click Energy	128	0.26%	18	0.14%	17	0.17%	0	0%	1	0.4%	0	0%	164	0.23%
I&C Market	**48,721**	**100%**	**13,104**	**100%**	**9,904**	**100%**	**830**	**100%**	**257**	**100%**	**20**	**100%**	**72,836**	**100%**



Source: NIEN

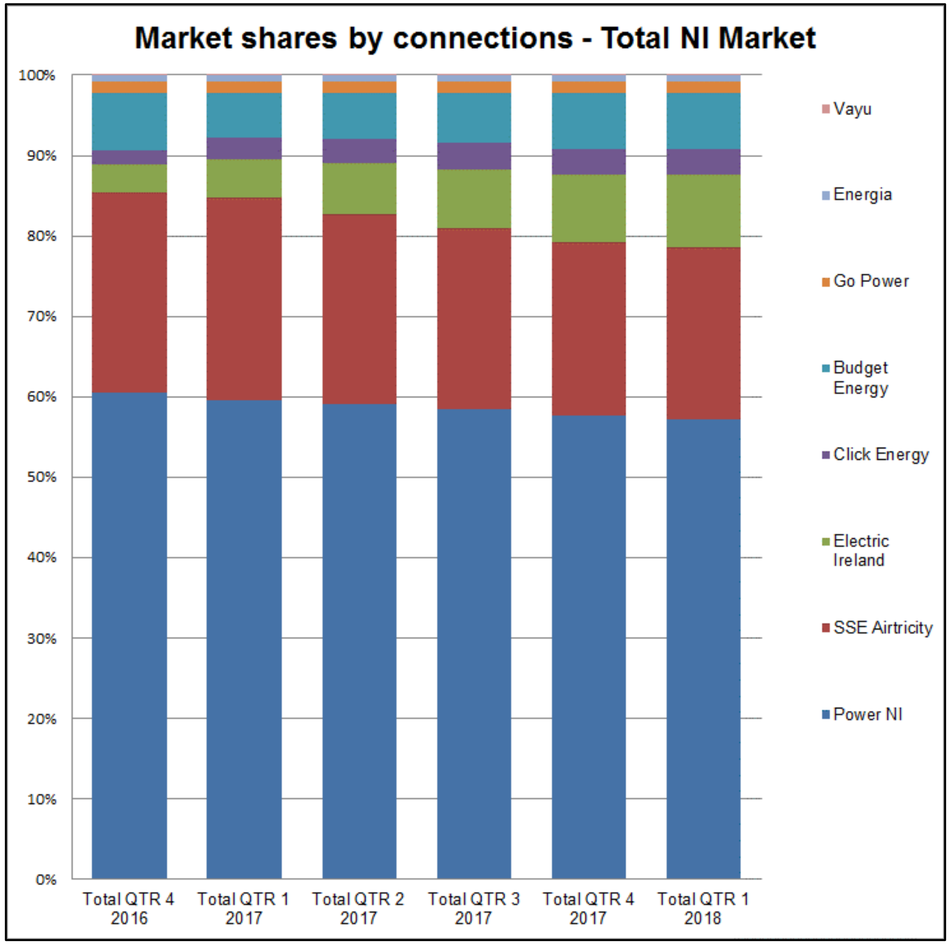
The graph shows the trends in market shares (by customer numbers) for each active I&C supplier in NI by market segment, for the previous six quarters. Competition in the I&C market is more developed than the domestic sector, and consequently market shares are much more dispersed. Out of the eight active suppliers at the end of Q1 2018, based on customer numbers, four of these suppliers have shares in excess of 10% in the total I&C market.

Table 6 Total NI market shares by connections

End of Q1 2018

Suppliers	Total	
Power NI	500,533	57.2%
SSE Airtricity	186,998	21.4%
Go Power	12,344	1.4%
Electric Ireland	79,435	9.1%
Energia	7,547	0.9%
Click Energy	27,176	3.1%
Budget Energy	60,982	7.0%
Vayu	53	0.006%
Total Market	**875,068**	**100%**

Source: NIEN



When looking at the electricity retail market as a whole by connections, (domestic and I&C customers) Power NI's leading position as the incumbent supplier has decreased to 57.2%, which is less when compared to their 59.6% total market share in the same quarter last year (Q1 in 2017). This is attributable to the growth of market activity of the non-incumbent suppliers and further growth by the new entrants to the market. Electric Ireland continue to make considerable gains this quarter, their total connections have increased by 6,412.

The graph to the right shows the trends in market shares (by customer numbers) for each active domestic and I&C supplier in NI for the previous six quarters.

Electricity shares by consumption (GWh)

Table 7 Domestic market shares by consumption

Q1 2018

Domestic Suppliers	Domestic Prepayment		Domestic credit		Domestic Total	
	GWh	%	GWh	%	GWh	%
Power NI	152.6	43.1%	316.1	65.4%	468.6	56.0%
SSE Airtricity	82.7	23.4%	114.2	23.6%	196.9	23.5%
Electric Ireland	41.3	11.7%	38.8	8.0%	80.1	9.6%
Click Energy	25.9	7.3%	2.6	0.5%	28.5	3.4%
Budget Energy	51.4	14.5%	11.5	2.4%	62.9	7.5%
Dom Market	**354.0**	**100%**	**483.0**	**100%**	**837.0**	**100%**

Source NIEN

In Q1 2018, Power NI's share of the market by consumption was 43.1% for domestic prepayment and 65.4% for domestic credit, this shows a decrease when compared to the same quarter in 2017 when Power NI's domestic prepayment market share was 45.4% and domestic credit was 67.3%.

The graph to the right shows the trends in market shares (by consumption) for each active domestic supplier in NI for the previous six quarters.

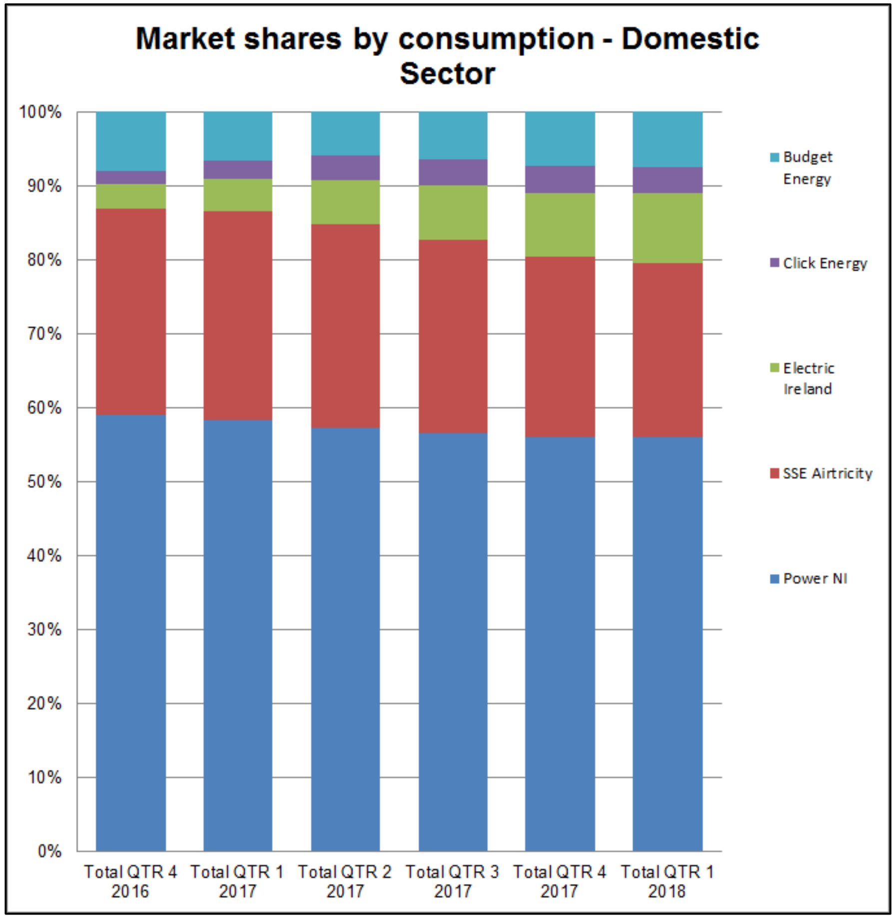


Table 8 I&C market shares by consumption

Q1 2018

I&C Suppliers	I&C < 20 MWh		I&C < 20 – 49 MWh		I&C 50 – 499 MWh		I&C 500 – 1,999 MWh		I&C 2,000 – 19,999 MWh		I&C ≥ 20,000 MWh		I&C Total	
	GWh	%	GWh	%	GWh	%	GWh	%	GWh	%	GWh	%	GWh	%
Power NI	48.0	45.6%	42.7	34.5%	88.3	23.8%	22.8	10.8%	33.1	9.6%	0.0	0.0%	234.8	17.5%
SSE Airtricity	20.5	19.5%	29.3	23.6%	61.3	16.5%	22.6	10.7%	39.8	11.5%	50.1	26.9%	223.5	16.6%
Go Power	19.8	18.8%	24.1	19.4%	95.4	25.7%	73.2	34.7%	109.1	31.5%	61.0	32.7%	382.6	28.5%
Electric Ireland	5.6	5.3%	8.0	6.5%	48.6	13.1%	30.6	14.5%	71.2	20.5%	22.9	12.3%	187.0	13.9%
Energia	9.8	9.3%	17.4	14.1%	72.2	19.5%	59.7	28.2%	86.5	25.0%	52.3	28.1%	297.8	22.2%
Budget Energy	1.3	1.2%	2.1	1.7%	3.9	1.1%	0.2	0.1%	3.1	0.9%	0.0	0.0%	10.6	0.8%
Vayu	0.02	0.02%	0.01	0.01%	0.4	0.1%	2.4	1.1%	2.2	0.6%	0.0	0.0%	4.9	0.4%
Click Energy	0.3	0.26%	0.2	0.2%	0.8	0.2%	0.0	0%	1.4	0.4%	0.0	0.0%	2.7	0.2%
I&C Market	**105.2**	**100%**	**123.7**	**100%**	**370.9**	**100%**	**211.3**	**100%**	**346.4**	**100%**	**186.3**	**100%**	**1,343.9**	**100.0%**

Source: NIEN

The main suppliers by consumption in the I&C sector are Go Power (28.5%), Energia (22.2%), Power NI (17.5%), SSE Airtricity (16.6%) and Electric Ireland (13.9%).

The graph to the right shows the trends in market shares (by consumption) for each active I&C supplier in NI for the previous six quarters.

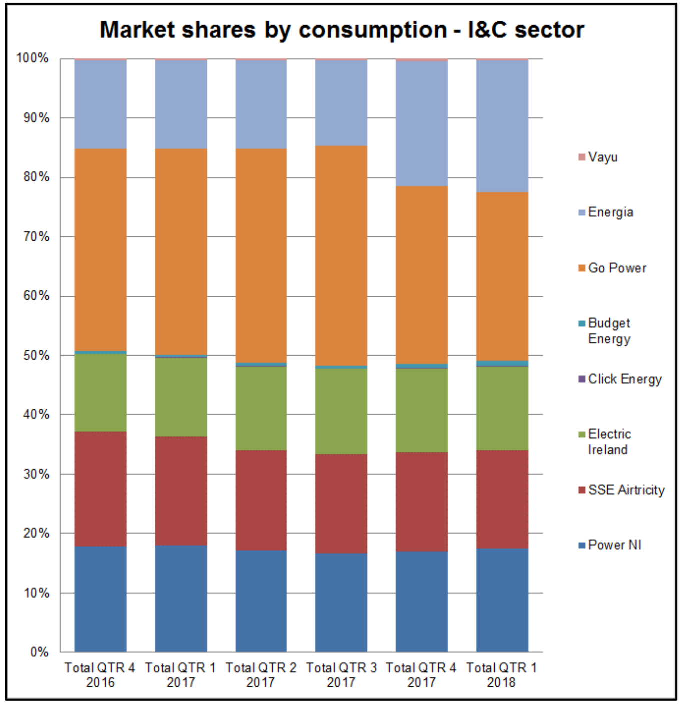
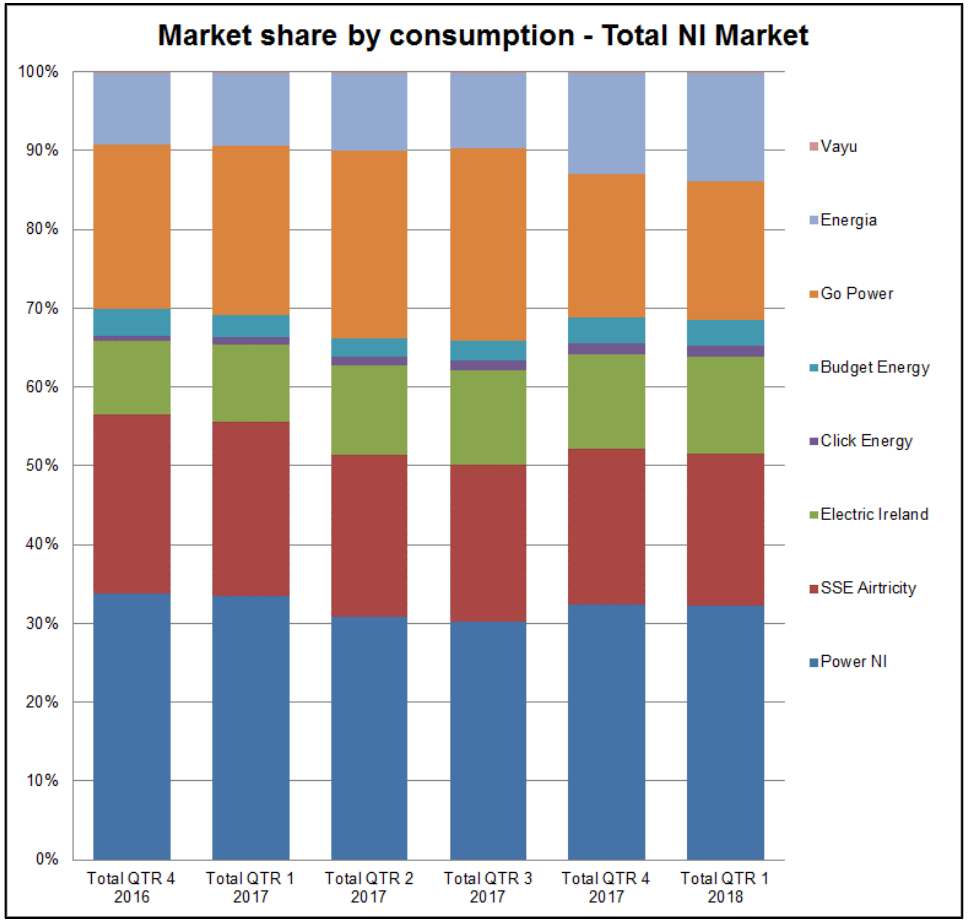


Table 9 Total NI market shares by consumption

Q1 2018

Total Market	Total	
	GWh	%
Power NI	703.5	32.3%
SSE Airtricity	420.4	19.3%
Go Power	382.6	17.5%
Electric Ireland	267.1	12.2%
Energia	297.8	13.7%
Click Energy	31.2	1.5%
Budget Energy	73.5	3.4%
Vayu	4.9	0.2%
Total Market	**2,180.9**	**100%**

Source: NIEN

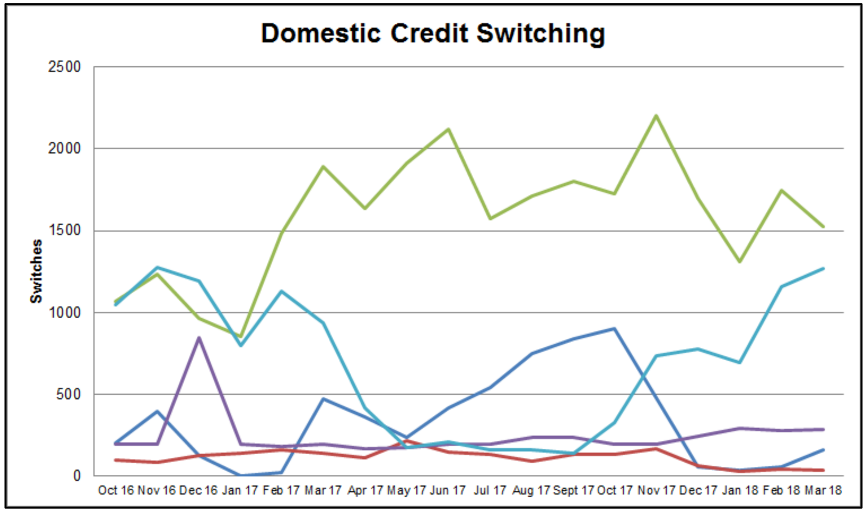


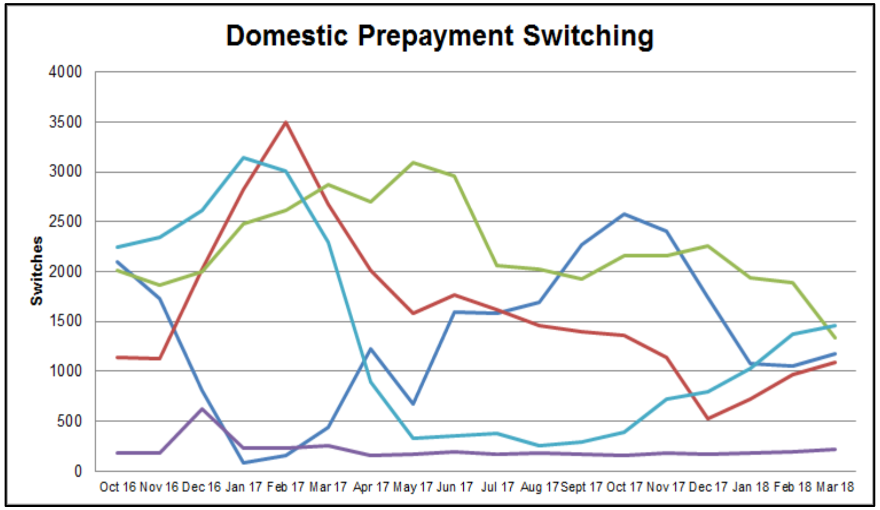
Electricity consumption in NI retail market for Q1 2018 was over 2,180 GWh, which indicates a minimal year on year increase when compared to 2,092 GWh consumed in Q1 2017.

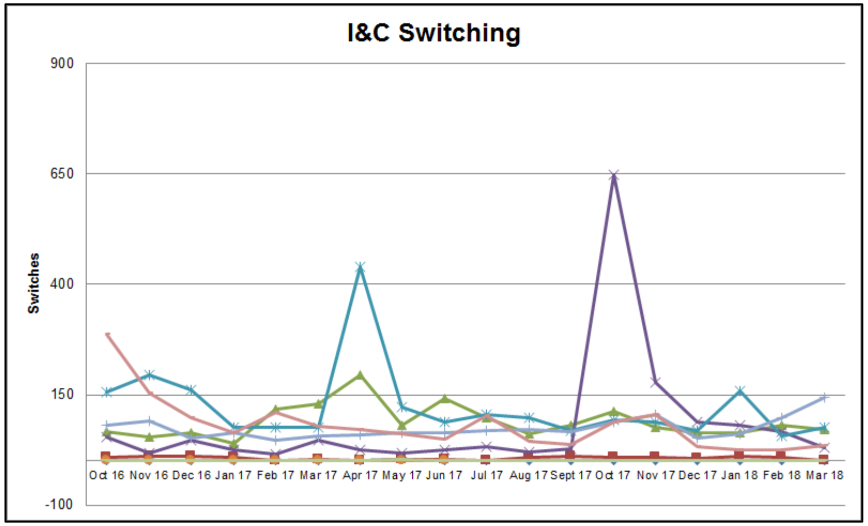
The graph to the right reflects the trends in market shares (by total consumption) for each active domestic and I&C supplier in NI for the previous six quarters.

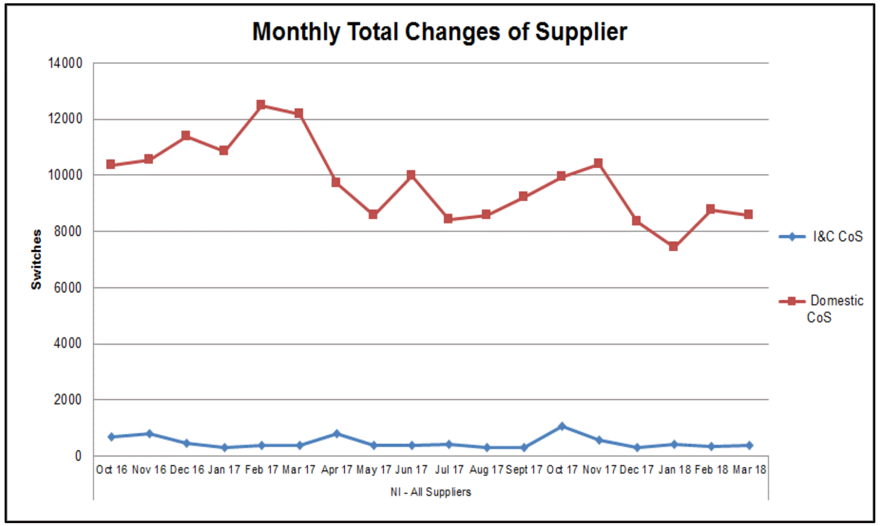
3.3 Electricity market activity

The line charts below reflect the change of customer numbers (gains per supplier), per market segment and anonymised supplier.









The table below shows market activity through changes of supplier (CoSs) on a quarterly basis in the whole NI market split by domestic and I&C. These percentages are calculated using the number of quarterly switches divided by the number of customers at the end of the quarter in the relevant market.

Table 10 Electricity market activity

Q1 2018

Period	Domestic Switching		I&C Switching		Total Switching	
2016 Q4	32,295	4.1%	1,911	2.7%	34,206	3.9%
2017 Q1	35,543	4.5%	1,060	1.5%	36,603	4.2%
2017 Q2	28,253	3.6%	1,574	2.2%	29,827	3.4%
2017 Q3	26,230	3.3%	1,044	1.4%	27,274	3.1%
2017 Q4	28,700	3.6%	1,944	2.7%	30,644	3.5%
2018 Q1	24,810	3.1%	1,136	1.6%	25,946	3.0%

Source: NIEN

The number of domestic switches over this quarter has decreased from the previous quarter, with an average of c8,600 switches per month compared to c9,550 switches per month for the previous quarter. The percentage of domestic switching is currently 3.1% for the quarter which illustrates a slight decrease in market activity when compared to the previous quarter (3.6%).

The I&C sector market activity has also decreased when comparing quarter on quarter, with a switching rate of 1.6% (from 2.7% for Q4 2017).

3.4 Electricity prices

For the electricity prices section, we follow Eurostat's format and methodology. As a result the average prices for NI are comparable with prices in other EU countries (those published in BEIS's Quarterly Energy Prices reports[5] and Eurostat data base[6]) once these figures have been converted to GBP.

The base figures are all submitted on a quarterly basis by suppliers, split by domestic and non-domestic (I&C). The UR performs a high level reasonableness check of the base figures, but the suppliers are responsible for the accuracy of the information that is provided to the UR. The base figures are as follows:

- **Volume** of electricity sold to consumers.
- The **value**, or revenue gained from the sale, split into three categories: excluding all taxes, excluding VAT, and including all taxes.
- The **number** of customers supplied in that particular size category.

The volume and value are used to calculate a NI quarterly average value per size band. This value per unit (per size band) is what we refer to in this paper as "price". For clarity we do not receive from suppliers the actual price paid by their customers. Instead we calculate the average value or revenue collected per unit in that particular size category, as per the Eurostat methodology.

As the Eurostat figures are published on a semester basis (semester 1 (S1) January to June and semester 2 (S2) July to December) we therefore average the two relevant quarters to obtain the comparable six-month period for NI.

[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/quarterly-energy-prices

[6] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/data/database

It should be noted that the comparability of the derived NI prices to the other Member States can be greatly affected by fluctuations in the Euro GBP exchange rate. For the purposes of tariff comparisons we convert the EU tariff data from Euro to GBP using the monthly average exchange rate applicable for the semester (published by Eurostat). Therefore tariff movements and comparisons between NI and other Member States can be impacted by both an increase and decrease in a tariff and/or also by any variation in exchange rates.

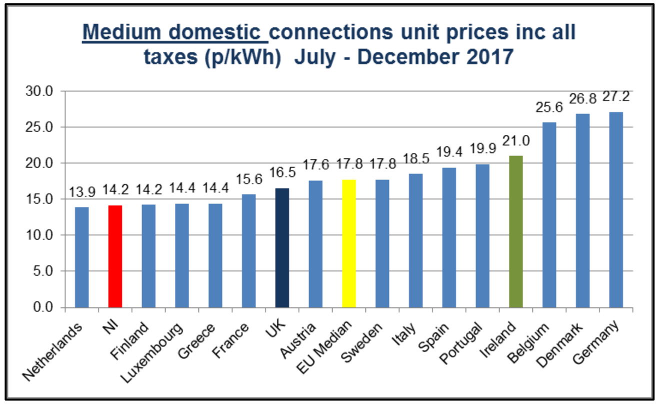
The pricing data detailed in this QTR is for the semester 2 July to December 2017.

Domestic price comparison with EU

In the domestic graph shown below, we use unit prices which include Climate Change Levy (CCL) and include VAT as this reflects the final prices paid by domestic Customers. The medium sized domestic customers (annual consumption of between 2,500 and 4,999 kWh) have been selected for the purpose of analysis, as this consumption category reflects the majority of domestic customers in NI.

In S2 2017 the NI price was significantly below the EU median, and ranks among the cheapest in Europe. The NI domestic price is also less than that of GB and considerably less than RoI. This is largely attributable to exchange rate fluctuations as well as movements in the tariffs.

It should be noted that Power NI announced a 5.6% increase in their regulated domestic tariff, effective from 1st October 2017.



I&C price comparison with EU

The following graphs show I&C electricity prices in the 15 EU countries (converted to GBP) and in NI, per consumption size bands (following standard EU categorisation). The I&C graphs use unit prices which include Climate Change Levy (CCL) but exclude VAT, as VAT is a refundable expense for many businesses. This reflects the final prices paid by I&C customers. We amalgamate the two largest categories of annual consumption (large and very large connections) to avoid any confidentiality issues in sectors where there are a small number of customers and suppliers involved.

For the Very Small I&C Category[7] the NI prices are now listed as one of the most reasonable in the EU and also significantly lower than RoI (two thirds of I&C connections in NI are in this size category). For medium and larger I&C customers, prices are marginally above those in RoI but are lower than in the UK overall. The following table shows the percentage of connections and consumption for the period end detailed in the I&C graphs (S2 2017).

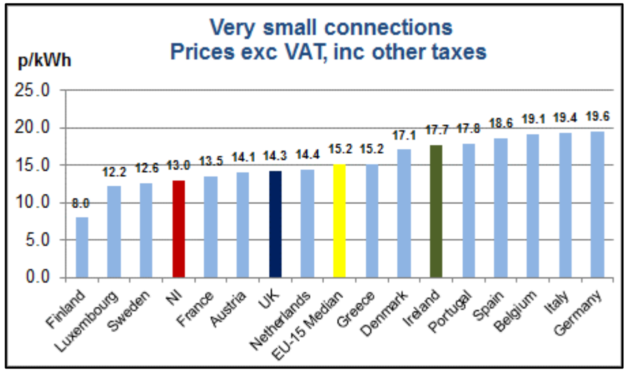
[7] For the Very Small I&C size band, S2 2017 data was unavailable for the Netherlands at the date of publication. S1 2017 data was used for the Netherlands in this size band for illustrative purposes.

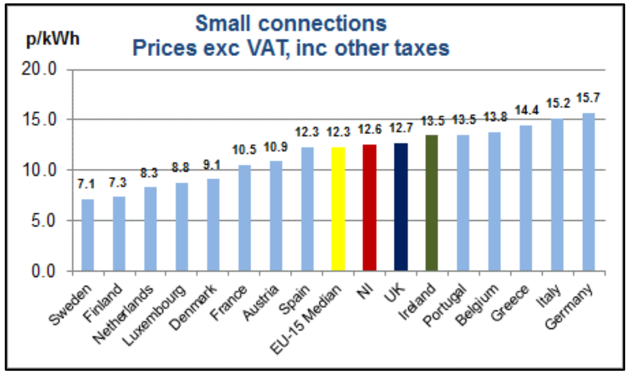
Table 11 Electricity market % by I&C consumption band

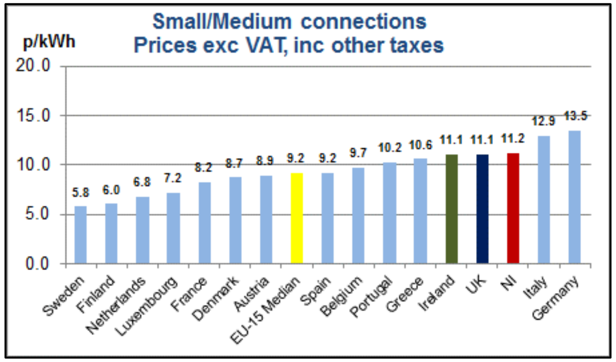
End of Q4 2017[8]

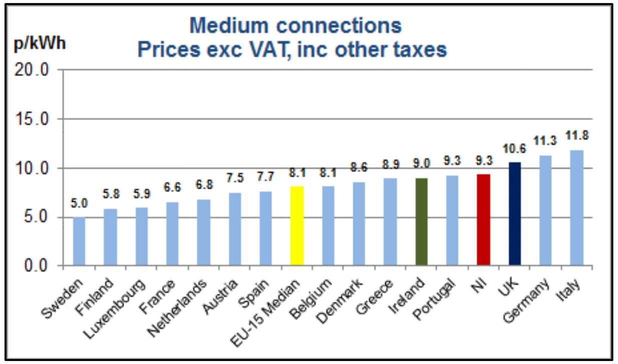
Size of customer	Annual consumption bands (MWh)	% of I&C connections[9]	% of I&C consumption	I&C connection numbers
Very small	< 20	66.9%	7.3%	48,468
Small	20 – 499	31.6%	36.3%	22,913
Small / Medium	500 – 1,999	1.1%	16.1%	828
Medium	2,000 – 19,999	0.4%	25.6%	255
Large & Very Large	>20,000	0.03%	14.7%	20

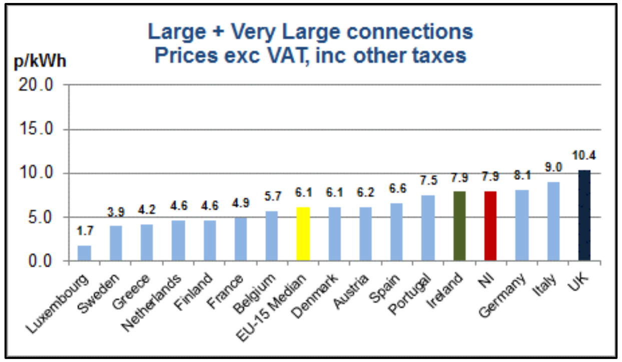
Source: NIEN











Source: NI electricity suppliers, Eurostat and UR internal calculations

[8] The pricing data relates to Q4 2017 as opposed to Q1 2018. This is due to the availability of pricing data from Eurostat and suppliers.

4 Gas in the Greater Belfast area (PNGL)

4.1 Connections and consumption in the Greater Belfast area

The table below shows gas connection numbers in the Greater Belfast area at the end of March 2018 and the consumption in this area during January to March 2018.

Table 12 Gas connections and consumption per market segment in the Greater Belfast area

Q1 2018

Market sector	Number of connections	% share of connections in sector	Consumption (MWh)[10]	% share of consumption in sector
Domestic prepayment	126,781	62.4%	542,510	50.0%
Domestic credit	68,742	33.8%	541,814	50.0%
I&C < 73,200 kWh	7,801	3.8%		
Total Domestic and Small I&C[11]	**203,324**	**100%**	**1,084,324**	**100%**
I&C 73,200 to 732,000 kWh	2,795	87.4%	259,803	35.1%
I&C 732,001 to 2,196,000 kWh	302	9.4%	152,737	20.6%
I&C > 2,196,000 kWh	100	3.1%	327,635	44.3%
Medium & Large I&C[12]	**3,197**	**100%**	**740,175**	**100%**
Total	**206,521**		**1,824,499**	

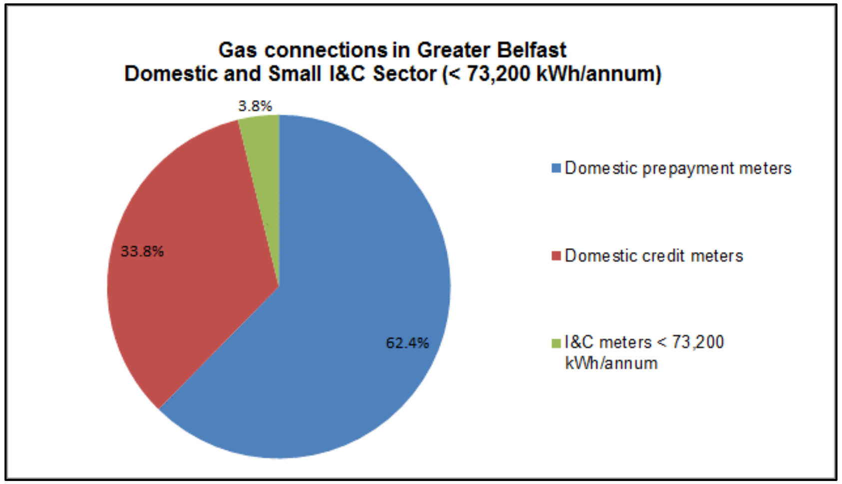
Source: PNGL

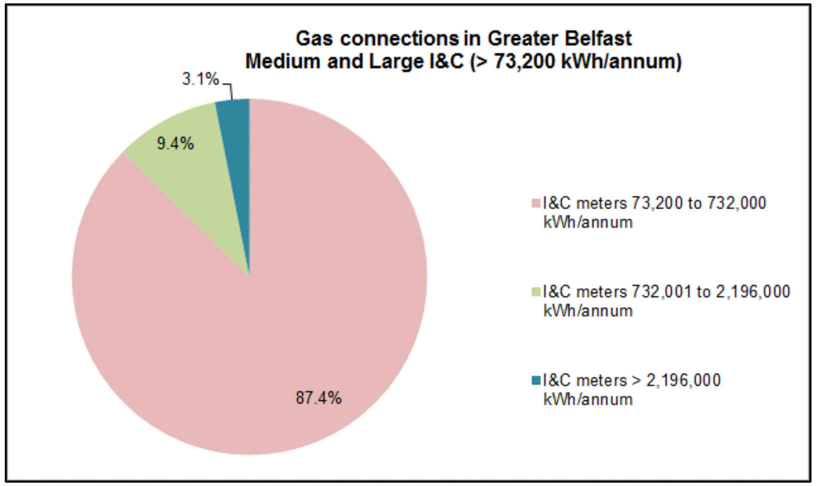
At the end of March 2018, the domestic and small I&C connections represent 98.4% of the total connections and 59.4% by consumption. The remaining 1.6% of connections are medium and large I&C which represent 40.6% of consumption.

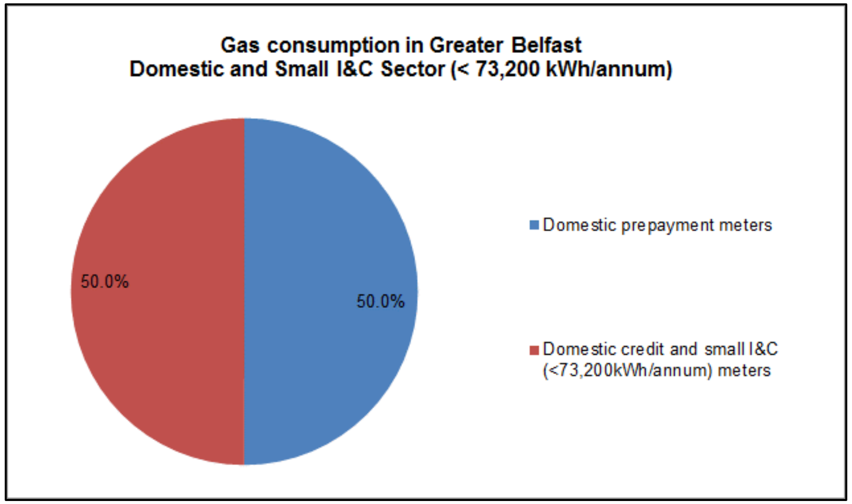
Within the domestic sector, 64.8% of the connections use prepayment meters and 35.2% use credit meters to pay for their gas.

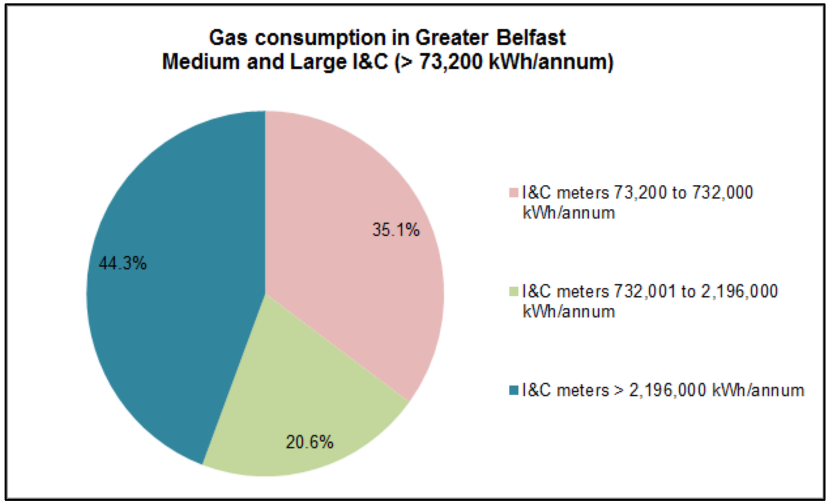
[10] Gas consumption is presented in MWh (previously up to 2015 gas consumption was presented in Therms in the QTRs.
[11] The domestic and small I&C sector relates to any customers using less than 73,200 kWh per annum. The consumption information for domestic credit and small I&C are combined as this information is not available separately.
[12] The medium and large I&C sector relates to any customers with annual consumption that is greater than or equal to 73,200 kWh per annum.

The charts below show the numbers of gas connections in the Greater Belfast area at the end of March 2018 and the consumption in this area during January to March 2018.









4.2 Gas market shares in the Greater Belfast area

This section provides information on the connection numbers and consumption, by supplier, in the Greater Belfast area. The market shares in terms of connections are as at the end of March 2018 and the market shares in terms of consumption are for the period January to March 2018. There are five suppliers in the domestic and small I&C sector, although only two of these suppliers are active in the domestic market. In the medium and large I&C market there are currently six active suppliers.

Gas shares by connections numbers

The table below shows the market shares for each supplier within the domestic and small I&C sector in the Greater Belfast area. The market shares are shown as number of connections per supplier and also as a percentage share within the sector (as at the end of March 2018).

Table 13 Domestic and small I&C[13] market shares by connections

End of Q1 2018

Supplier	Domestic prepayment		Domestic Credit		I&C < 73,200 kWh		Total for Domestic and Small I&C	
SSE Airtricity	91,537	72.2%	55,618	80.9%	5,065	64.9%	**152,220**	**74.9%**
firmus energy	35,244	27.8%	13,124	19.1%	862	11.0%	**49,230**	**24.2%**
Vayu	0	0%	0	0%	14	0.2%	**14**	**0.01%**
Go Power	0	0%	0	0%	581	7.4%	**581**	**0.3%**
Flogas	0	0%	0	0%	1,279	16.4%	**1,279**	**0.6%**
Total	**126,781**	**100%**	**68,742**	**100%**	**7,801**	**100%**	**203,324**	**100%**

Source: PNGL

In terms of market shares by connections, SSE Airtricity (the incumbent supplier) retains a significant share of the domestic and small I&C market of currently 74.9%. In fact this market share has increased marginally when compared to the equivalent quarter in 2017 (73.7%) showing a slight increase in their dominant market position.

[13] The domestic and small I&C sector relates to any customers using less than 73,200 kWh per annum.

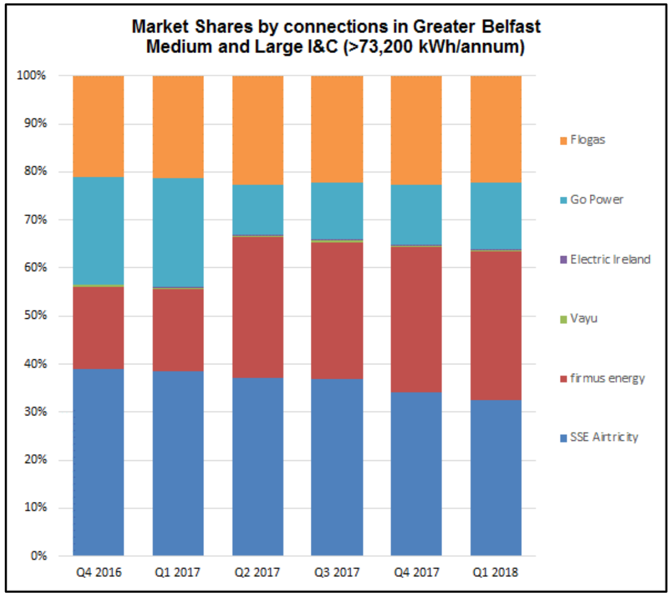
The table below shows the market shares for each supplier within the medium and large I&C sector (i.e. I&Cs with consumption over 73,200 kWh per annum) in the Greater Belfast area at the end of March 2018. The corresponding graph shows the change in market shares by supplier within the same sector over the last eighteen months.

Table 14 Medium and large I&C[14] market shares by connections

End of Q1 2018

Supplier	I&C 73,200 to 732,000 kWh		I&C 732,001 to 2,196,000 kWh		I&C > 2,196,000 kWh		Total for Medium and Large I&C	
SSE Airtricity	914	32.7%	96	31.8%	32	32.0%	**1,042**	**32.6%**
firmus energy	853	30.5%	96	31.8%	35	35.0%	**984**	**30.8%**
Vayu	10	0.4%	1	0.3%	0	0%	**11**	**0.3%**
Electric Ireland	0	0%	0	0%	6	6.0%	**6**	**0.2%**
Go Power	347	12.4%	73	24.2%	25	25.0%	**445**	**13.9%**
Flogas	671	24.0%	36	11.9%	2	2.0%	**709**	**22.2%**
Total	**2,795**	**100%**	**302**	**100%**	**100**	**100%**	**3,197**	**100%**

Source: PNGL



Competition in the medium and large I&C market is more active in the Greater Belfast area. At the end of Q1 2018, Go Power and Flogas had 13.9% and 22.2% share of the medium and large I&C market respectively. Firmus energy continue to increase their market share when comparing year on year, from 17.1% in Q1 2017 to 30.8% in this reporting period.

[14] The medium and large I&C sector relates to any customers with annual consumption that is greater than or equal to 73,200 kWh per annum.

Gas shares by consumption[15]

This section provides information on the consumption, by supplier, in the Greater Belfast area during Q1 2018. The table below shows the market shares for each supplier within the domestic and small I&C sector in the Greater Belfast area.

Table 15 Domestic and small I&C[16] market shares by consumption

Q1 2018

Supplier	Total for Domestic and Small I&C Sector (MWh)	% share
SSE Airtricity	781,504	72.1%
firmus energy	280,158	25.8%
Vayu	130	0.01%
Go Power	6,137	0.6%
Flogas	16,395	1.5%
Total	**1,084,324**	**100%**

Source: PNGL

SSE Airtricity has retained the majority of the domestic and small I&C market share in the Greater Belfast area. Based on consumption their percentage market share in Q1 2018 was 72.1% compared with 70.9% in the same period last year.

firmus energy's market share has decreased from 27.2% during Q1 2017 to 25.8% during Q1 2018. The market share of the remaining suppliers based on consumption levels continues to be minimal as they are not active in the domestic market and supply only to a limited number of small I&C customers.

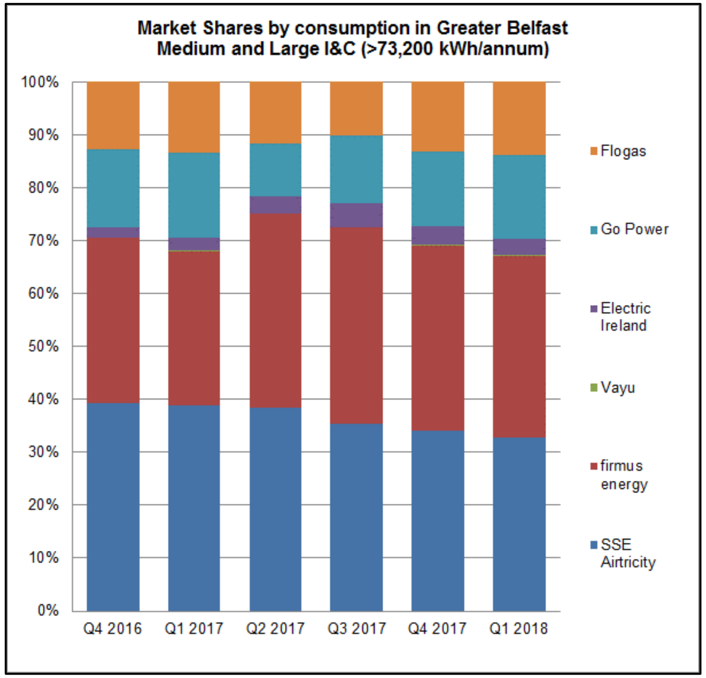
[15] Gas consumption is presented in this QTR in MWh.
[16] The domestic and small I&C sector relates to any customers using less than 73,200 kWh per annum.

The table below shows the market shares for each supplier within the medium and large I&C sector (i.e. those using at least 73,200 kWh per annum) in the Greater Belfast area during Q1 2018. The corresponding graph shows the change in market shares by supplier within the same sector over the last eighteen months.

Table 16 Medium and large I&C[17] market shares by consumption
Q1 2018

Supplier	I&C 73,200 to 732,000 kWh		I&C 732,001 to 2,196,000 kWh		I&C > 2,196,000 kWh		Total for Medium and Large I&C	
	(MWh)	% share	(MWh)	% share	(MWh)	% share	(MWh)	% share
SSE Airtricity	84,036	32.3%	50,772	33.2%	108,587	33.1%	**243,395**	**32.9%**
firmus	84,347	32.5%	55,190	36.1%	113,783	34.7%	**253,320**	**34.2%**
Vayu	821	0.3%	725	0.5%	0	0%	**1,546**	**0.2%**
Electric Ireland	0	0%	0	0%	22,291	6.8%	**22,291**	**3.0%**
Go Power	30,776	11.8%	28,283	18.5%	59,064	18.0%	**118,123**	**16.0%**
Flogas	59,823	23.0%	17,766	11.6%	23,911	7.3%	**101,501**	**13.7%**
Total	**259,803**	**100%**	**152,737**	**100%**	**327,635**	**100%**	**740,175**	**100%**

Source: PNGL



Market share by consumption fluctuates throughout the year due to the movement of customers between suppliers, and also due to the amount of gas consumed by each customer during different seasons (as gas usage can be weather dependent for many, but not all, customers).

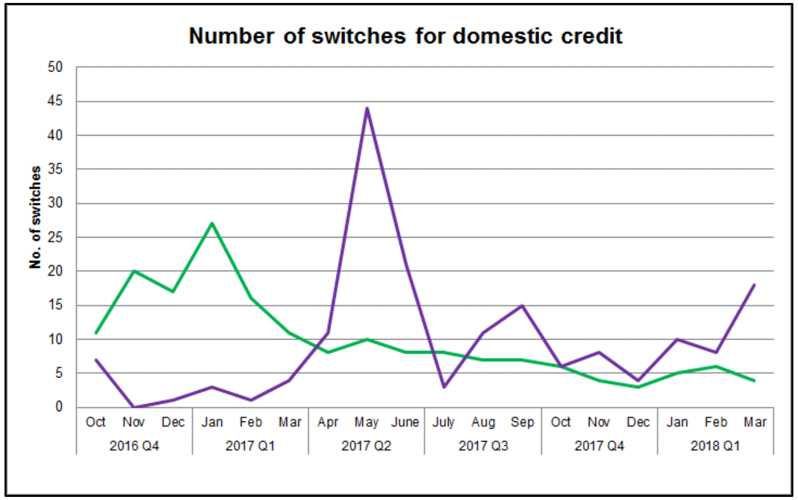
Firmus' market share by consumption in the medium and large I&C market has increased compared to the same period last year. In Q1 2017 they held 29.1% compared to 34.2% in Q1 2018. Flogas and Electric Ireland continue to increase their market share from 13.4% and 2.3% in Q1 2017 to 13.7% and 3.0% in Q1 2018. Go Power and Vayu market shares by consumption has remained relatively stagnant at 16.0% and 0.2% compared to 16.1% and 0.2% in Q1 2017.

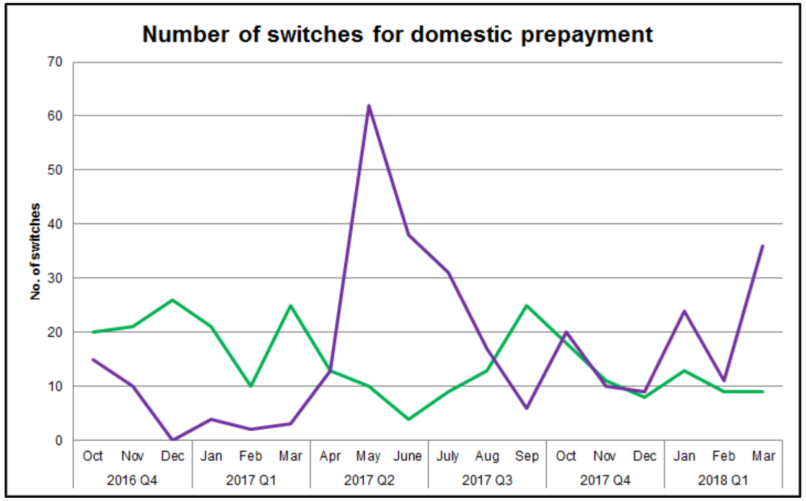
The market shares of SSE Airtricity in this market has decreased from 38.9% during Q1 2017 to 32.9% in Q1 2018.

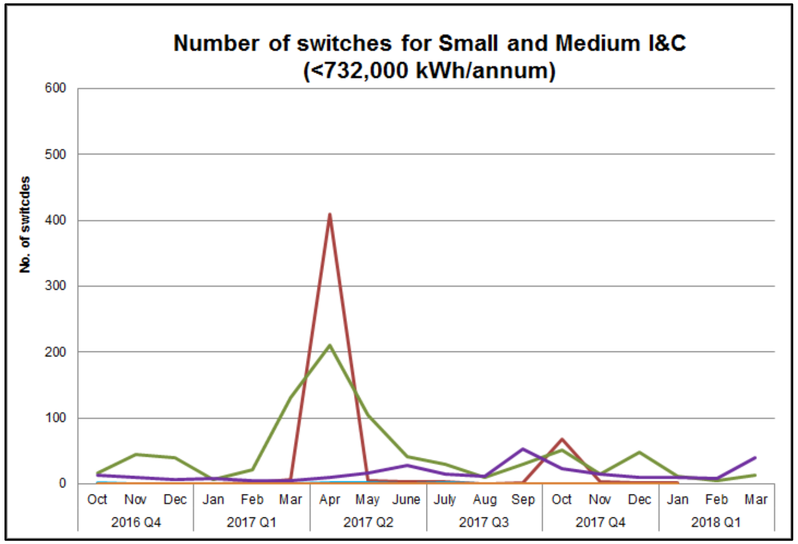
[17] The medium and large I&C sector relates to any customers with annual consumption that is greater than or equal to 73,200 kWh per annum.

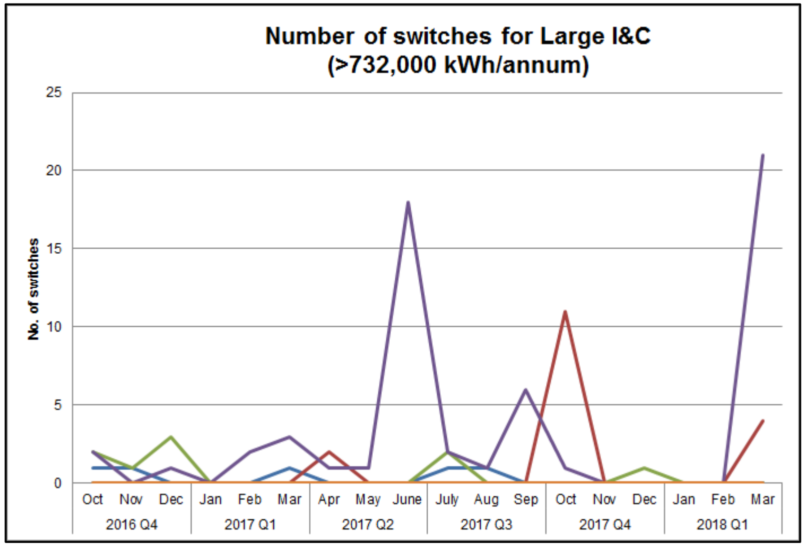
4.3 Market activity in the Greater Belfast area

The line charts below reflect the number of switching gains per market sector in the Greater Belfast area. The switching gains are displayed by supplier; however the supplier names have been anonymised. Note that prepayment switches, within the domestic sector, include switches back to the previous supplier in cases where the customer has not taken the required action to complete their switch.









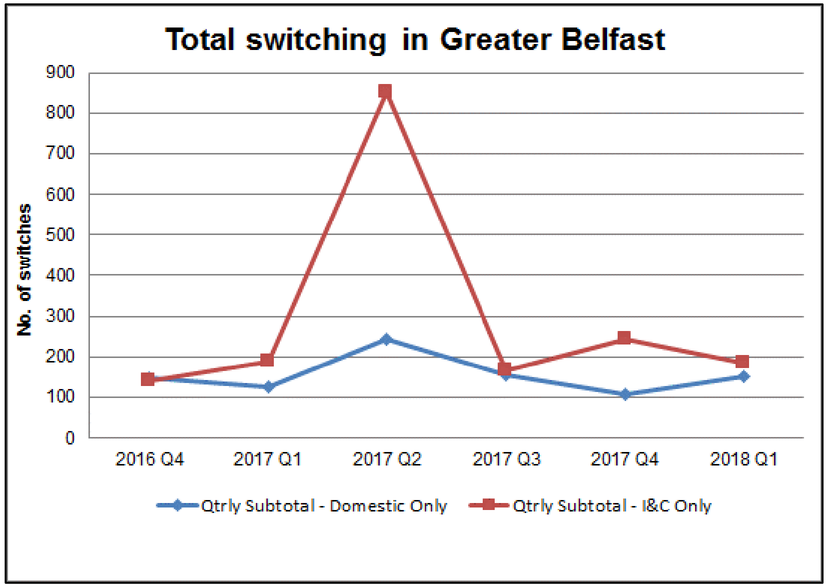
There are only two active suppliers in the domestic market and market switching has continued at a low level. The I&C graphs above represent the split between the small and medium I&C customers (i.e. customers consuming less than 732,000 kWh per annum) and large I&C consumers (i.e. consuming more than 732,000 kWh per annum). There was a spike in switching in the small and medium I&C sector (<732,000 kWh/annum) as well as the Large I&C sector (>732,000) during Q2 2017.

The table below shows market activity through the number of customer switches on a quarterly basis in the Greater Belfast gas market and the associated percentage switching rate. The switching rate percentages are calculated using the number of quarterly switches divided by the number of customers at the end of the quarter in the relevant market.

Table 17 Market activity in the Greater Belfast area

Period	Domestic Switching		I&C Switching		Total Switching	
2016 Q4	148	0.1%	140	1.3%	288	0.1%
2017 Q1	127	0.1%	188	1.7%	315	0.2%
2017 Q2	242	0.1%	852	7.8%	1,094	0.5%
2017 Q3	154	0.1%	167	1.5%	321	0.2%
2017 Q4	107	0.1%	245	2.3%	352	0.2%
2018 Q1	153	0.1%	183	1.7%	336	0.2%

Source: PNGL



The graph to the right represents the total number of switches completed on a quarterly basis, split by the domestic and I&C markets. The graph shows that the overall level of switching has been consistently low over the last year, until a large increase in switching within the I&C sector at the end of Q2 2017. During Q1 2018 the gas customer market engagement continued at its traditional lower levels.

5 Gas in the Ten Towns area (FeDL)

5.1 Connections and consumption in the Ten Towns area

The table below shows gas connection numbers in the Ten Towns area at the end of March 2018 and the consumption in this area during January to March 2018.

Table 18 Gas connections and consumption per market segment in the Ten Towns area

Q1 2018

Market segment	Number of connections	% share of connections in sector	Consumption (MWh)[18]	% share of consumption in sector
Domestic prepayment	31,450	84.5%	110,059	74.1%
Domestic credit	4,410	11.9%	38,435	25.9%
I&C < 73,200 kWh	1,351	3.6%		
Total Domestic and Small I&C[19]	**37,211**	**100.0%**	**148,494**	**100%**
I&C 73,200 to 732,000 kWh	957	79.9%	117,204	25.0%
I&C 732,001 to 2,196,000 kWh	153	12.8%	71,596	15.2%
I&C > 2,196,000 kWh	88	7.3%	280,904	59.8%
Medium & Large I&C[20]	**1,198**	**100%**	**469,704**	**100.0%**
Total	**38,409**		**618,199**	

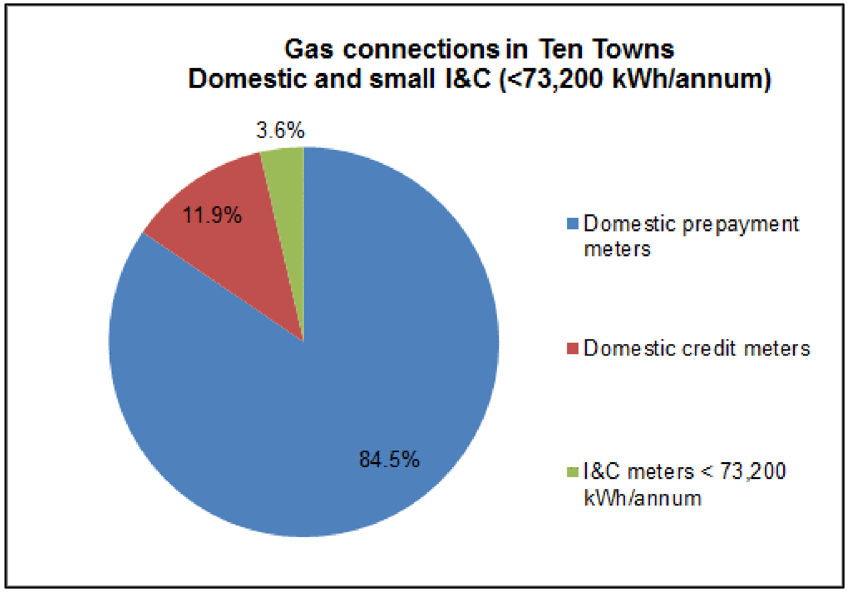
Source: feDL

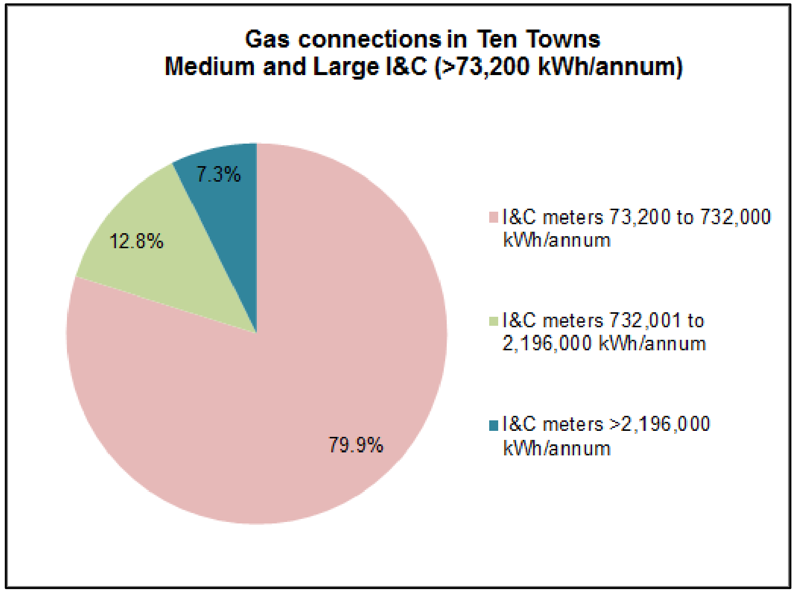
At the end of March 2018, the domestic and small I&C connections represent 96.8% of the total connections and 24.0% of consumption. The remaining 3.2% are medium and large I&C connections and represent 76.0% of total consumption in this area.

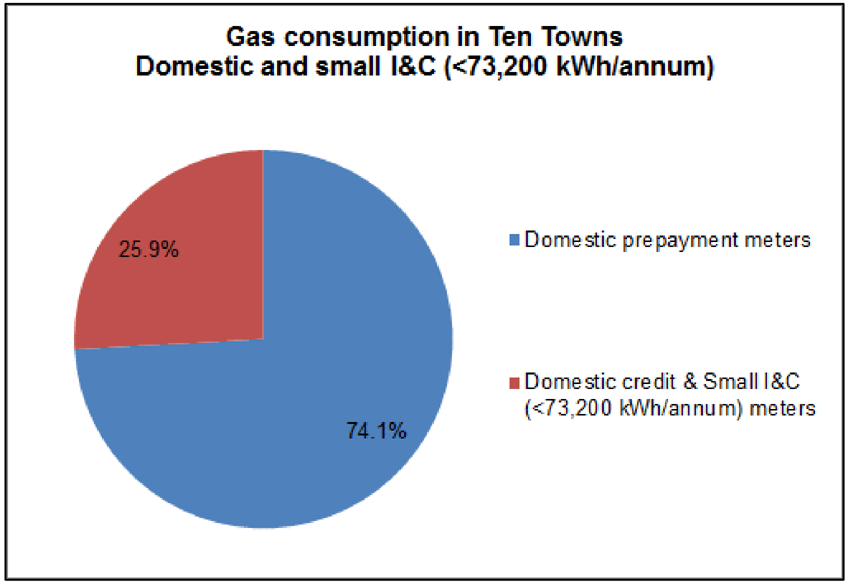
Within the domestic sector, 87.7% of the domestic connections use prepayment meters and 12.3% use credit meters to pay for their gas.

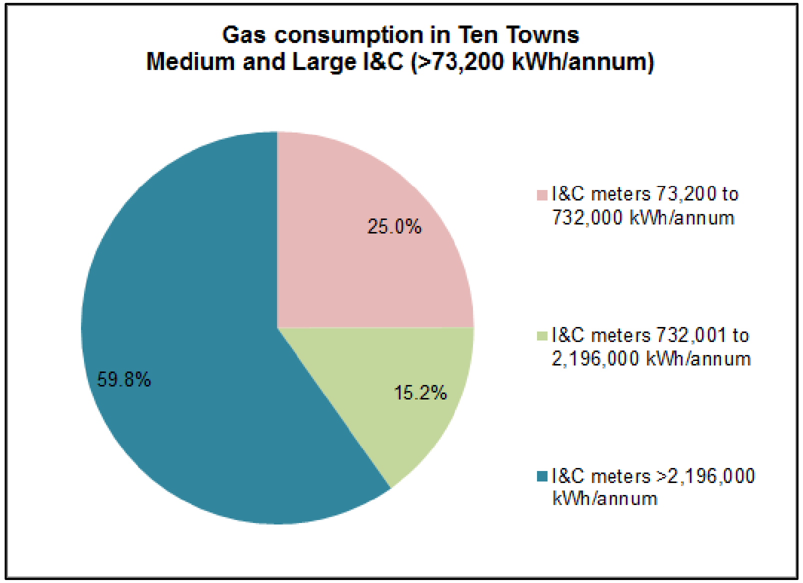
[18] Gas consumption is presented in this QTR in MWh. It is important to note that gas consumption was presented in Therms in the QTRs for 2015 and previous years.
[19] The domestic and small I&C sector relates to any customers using less than 73,200 kWh per annum. The consumption information for domestic credit and small I&C are combined as this information is not available to us with a full split.
[20] The medium and large I&C sector relates to any customers with annual consumption that is greater than or equal to 73,200 kWh per annum.

The charts below show the numbers of gas connections in the Ten Towns area at the end of March 2018 and the consumption in this area during January to March 2018.









5.2 Gas market shares in the Ten Towns area

This section provides information on the connection numbers and consumption, by supplier, in the Ten Towns area. The market shares in terms of connections are as at the end of March 2018 and the market shares in terms of consumption are for the period January to March 2018.

Competition opened in the Ten Towns large I&C market (>732,000 kWh per annum) in October 2012. The remainder of the market opened to competition in April 2015. There were four suppliers in the domestic and small I&C sector during Q1 2018, although only one supplier was active in the domestic market (the incumbent supplier). In the medium and large I&C market there were five active suppliers.

Gas shares by connections numbers

The table below shows the market shares for each supplier within the domestic and small I&C sector in the Ten Towns area.

Table 19 Domestic and small I&C[21] market shares by connections

End of Q1 2018

Supplier	Domestic prepayment		Domestic credit		I&C < 73,200 kWh		Total for Domestic and Small I&C	
SSE Airtricity	0	0%	0	0%	62	4.6%	**62**	**0.2%**
firmus energy	31,450	100%	4,410	100%	848	62.8%	**36,708**	**98.8%**
Go Power	0	0%	0	0%	152	11.3%	**152**	**0.3%**
Flogas	0	0%	0	0%	289	21.4%	**289**	**0.8%**
Total	**31,450**	**100%**	**4,410**	**100%**	**1,351**	**100%**	**37,211**	**100%**

Source: feDL

firmus energy, the incumbent supplier, is the only domestic supplier in the Ten Towns area. In terms of market share by connections, firmus energy retains the majority of the small I&C market with 62.8% share at the end of Q1 2018. The competing suppliers in the small I&C market, SSE Airtricity, Go Power and Flogas have been steadily increasing their market shares since entering the I&C market. At the end of Q1 2017, the collective market share of these three suppliers was 27.9% compared to 37.2% at the end of Q1 2018.

[21] The domestic and small I&C sector relates to any customers using less than 73,200 kWh per annum.

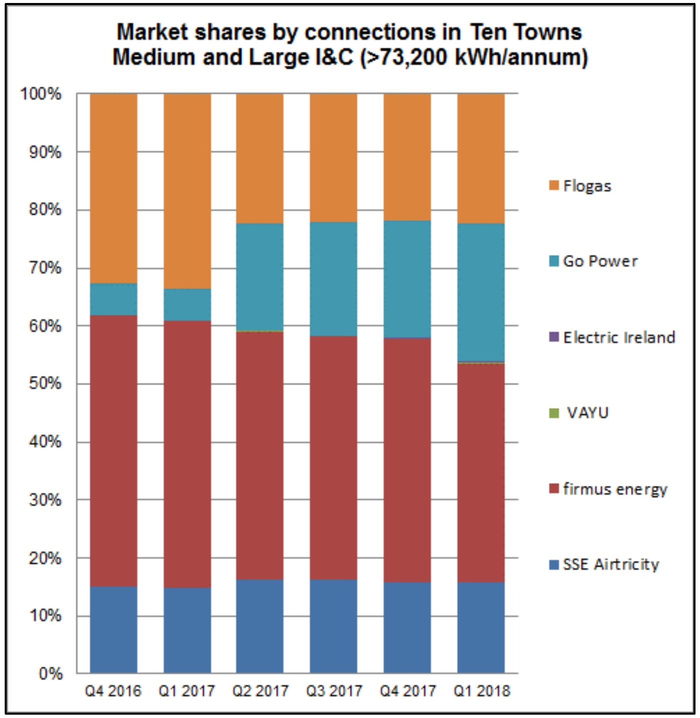
The following table shows the market shares for each supplier within the medium and large I&C sector (i.e. I&Cs with consumption over 73,200 kWh per annum) in the Ten Towns area at the end of Q1 2018. The corresponding graph shows the change in market shares by supplier within the same sector over the last eighteen months.

Table 20 Medium and large I&C[22] market shares by connections

End of Q1 2018

Supplier	I&C 73,200 to 732,000 kWh		I&C 732,001 to 2,196,000 kWh		I&C > 2,196,000 kWh		Total for Medium and Large I&C	
SSE Airtricity	134	14.0%	34	22.2%	22	25.0%	**190**	**15.9%**
firmus energy	316	33.0%	89	58.2%	46	52.3%	**451**	**37.6%**
Vayu	0	0%	0	0%	1	1.1%	**1**	**0.1%**
Go Power	255	26.6%	16	10.5%	13	14.8%	**284**	**23.7%**
Flogas	252	26.3%	14	9.2%	2	2.3%	**268**	**22.4%**
Electric Ireland	0	0%	0	0%	4	4.5%	**4**	**0.3%**
Total	**957**	**100%**	**153**	**100%**	**88**	**100%**	**1,198**	**100%**

Source: feDL



Competing suppliers are more active in the medium and large I&C market than the small I&C market in the Ten Towns area.

Overall in the medium and large sector market shares of SSE Airtricity, Go Power and Flogas are 15.9%, 23.7% and 22.4% respectively at the end of Q1 2018, compared to 14.9%, 5.6% and 33.5% respectively at the end of Q1 2017. The shares of firmus energy, the incumbent supplier, have decreased from 45.9% to 37.6% over the same period.

[22] The medium and large I&C sector relates to any customers with annual consumption that is greater than or equal to 73,200 kWh per annum.

Gas shares by consumption (MWh[23])

This section provides information on the consumption, by supplier, in the Ten Towns area. The market shares in terms of consumption are for the period from January to March 2018.

Table 21 Domestic and small I&C[24] market shares by consumption

Q1 2018

Supplier	Total for Domestic and Small I&C Sector (MWh)	% share
SSE Airtricity	718	0.5%
firmus energy	142,935	96.3%
Go Power	1,831	1.2%
Flogas	3,011	2.0%
Total	**148,494**	**100%**

Source: feDL

As firmus energy is the only supplier in the domestic market they hold the large majority of the market share by consumption in the domestic and small I&C sector.

The other competing suppliers in the small I&C section of this market (SSE Airtricity, Go Power and Flogas) have been active since Q3 2015 and are gradually increasing their market share as they take on more customers. During Q1 2018 their combined market share in terms of consumption in the domestic and small I&C market was 3.7% compared to 3.1% in the same period last year (i.e. Q1 2017).

[23] Gas consumption is presented in this QTR in MWh. It is important to note that gas consumption was presented in Therms in the QTRs for 2015 and previous years.
[24] The domestic and small I&C sector relates to any customers using less than 73,200 kWh per annum.

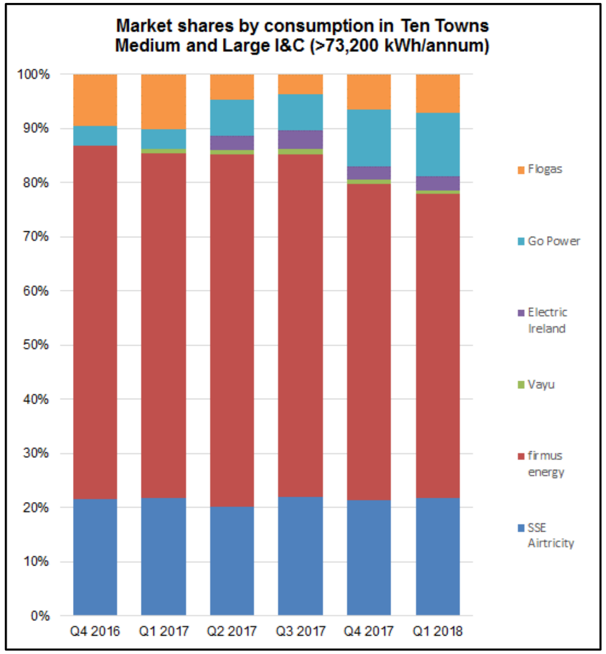
The table below shows the market shares for each supplier within the medium and large I&C sector (I&Cs using more than 73,200 kWh per annum) in the Ten Towns area during Q1 2018.

Table 22 Medium and large I&C[25] market shares by consumption

Q1 2018

Supplier	I&C 73,200 to 732,000 kWh (MWh)	% share	I&C 732,001 to 2,196,000 kWh (MWh)	% share	I&C > 2,196,000 kWh (MWh)	% share	Total for Medium and Large I&C (MWh)	% share
SSE Airtricity	19,516	16.7%	17,849	24.9%	65,217	23.2%	**102,582**	**21.8%**
firmus energy	38,520	32.9%	42,519	59.4%	182,102	64.8%	**263,141**	**56.0%**
Vayu	0	0%	0	0%	3,097	1.1%	**3,097**	**0.7%**
Go Power	32,973	28.1%	5,675	7.9%	16,393	5.8%	**55,041**	**11.7%**
Flogas	26,195	22.3%	5,553	7.8%	1,780	0.6%	**33,528**	**7.1%**
Electric Ireland	0	0%	0	0%	12,315	4.4%	**12,315**	**2.6%**
Total	**117,204**	**100%**	**71,596**	**100%**	**280,904**	**100%**	**469,704**	**100%**

Source: feDL

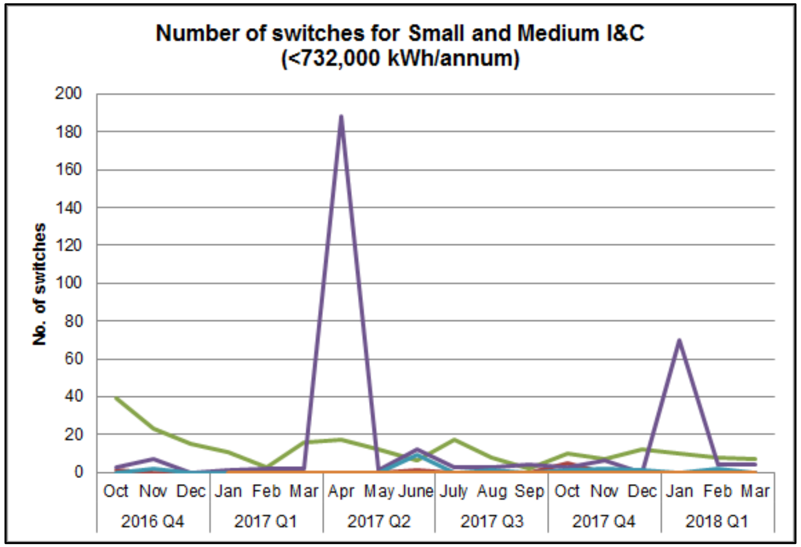


In terms of market share by consumption, firmus energy retains the largest share of the medium and large I&C sector. At the end of Q1 2018, firmus energy has 56.0% share of this market sector compared to 63.7% at the end of Q1 2017. Go Power and Flogas made notable gains this quarter, increasing by 1.3% and 0.6% respectively when compared to Q4 2017.

[25] The medium and large I&C sector relates to any customers with annual consumption that is greater than or equal to 73,200 kWh per annum.

5.3 Market activity in the Ten Towns area

The line graphs below reflect the number of switching gains in the I&C market sector in the Ten Towns area. The switching gains are displayed by supplier; however the supplier names have been anonymised. There is no information is provided on domestic switching in the Ten Towns area as there are no competing suppliers in the domestic market.



These line graphs represent the split between the price-regulated and non price-regulated sectors in the Ten Towns. In both sectors there was a spike in the number of switches in April 2017 and an increase again in January 2018.

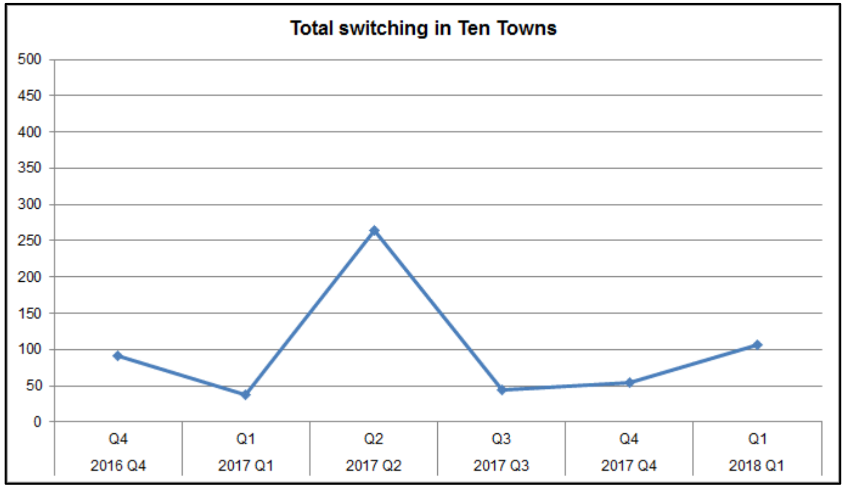
The table below shows market activity through the number of switches on a quarterly basis in the Ten Towns gas market and the associated percentage switching rate. The switching rate percentages are calculated using the number of quarterly switches divided by the number of customers at the end of the quarter in the relevant market.

Table 23 Market activity in the Ten Towns area

Period	I&C Switching	
2016 Q4	92	3.8%
2017 Q1	37	1.5%
2017 Q2	265	10.9%
2017 Q3	45	1.8%
2017 Q4	55	2.2%
2018 Q1	106	4.2%

Source: feDL

The overall level of switching has been consistently low in the Ten Towns however there was an increase in switches within the I&C sector in this quarter which is shown in the graph below.



6 Gas in the West Area (SGN NG)

6.1 Connections and consumption in the West area

The table below shows gas connection numbers in the West area at the end of March 2018 and the consumption in this area during January to March 2018.

Table 24 Gas connections and consumption per market segment in the West area

Q1 2018

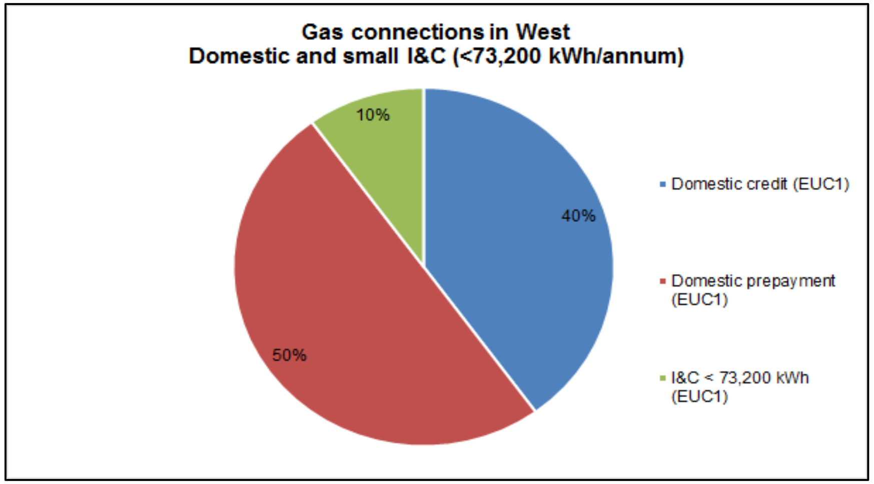
Market segment	Number of connections	% share of connections in sector	Consumption (MWh)[26]	% share of consumption in sector
Domestic prepayment	5	50.0%	27.8	55.6%
Domestic credit	4	40.0%	22.3	44.4%
I&C < 73,200 kWh	1	10.0%		
Total Domestic and Small I&C[27]	**10**	**100.0%**	**50.1**	**100%**
I&C 73,200 to 732,000 kWh	1	25.0%	29.4	0.1%
I&C 732,001 to 2,196,000 kWh	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
I&C > 2,196,000 kWh	3	75.0%	22,105.9	99.9%
Medium & Large I&C[28]	**4**	**100%**	**22,134.9**	**100.0%**
Total	**14**		**22,185.0**	

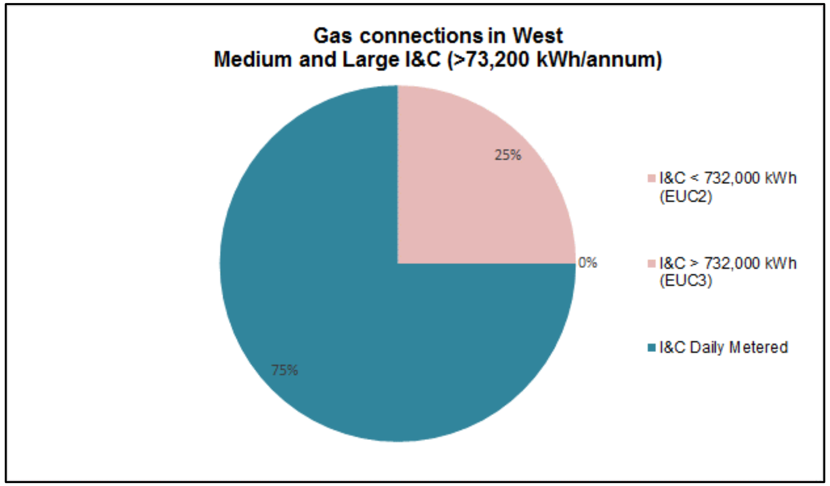
Source: SGN NG

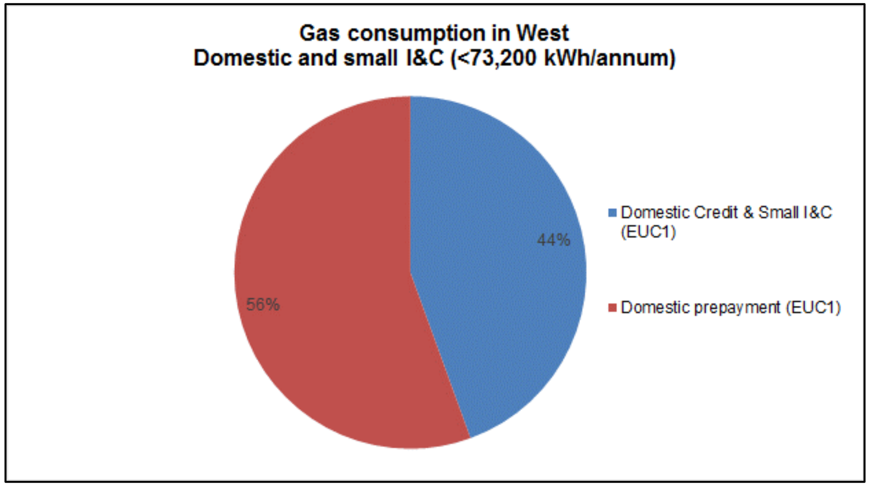
At the end of March 2018, the domestic and small I&C connections represent 71.4% of the total connections and 0.2% of consumption. The remaining 28.6% are medium and large I&C connections and represent 99.8% of total consumption in this area. Within the domestic sector, 55.6% of the domestic connections use prepayment meters and 44.4% use credit meters to pay for their gas.

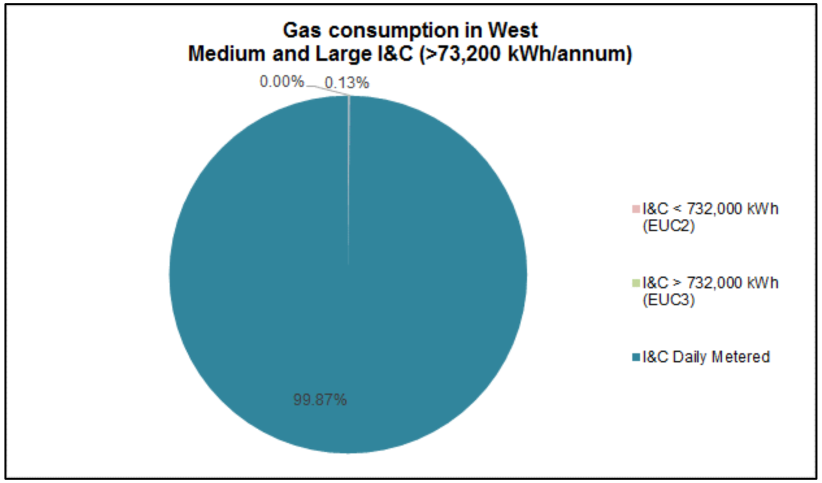
There are now 3 active suppliers in the West area, namely SSE Airtricity Gas NI as the commissioning domestic supplier, with Electric Ireland and Flogas active in the I&C market. A breakdown of market shares by supplier and switching data will be included in this publication as the network continues to develop.

[26] Gas consumption is presented in this QTR in MWh. It is important to note that gas consumption was presented in Therms in the QTRs for 2015 and previous years.
[27] The domestic and small I&C sector relates to any customers using less than 73,200 kWh per annum. The consumption information for domestic credit and small I&C are combined as this information is not available to us with a full split.
[28] The medium and large I&C sector relates to any customers with annual consumption that is greater than or equal to 73,200 kWh per annum.


Gas connections in West
Domestic and small I&C (<73,200 kWh/annum)
10%
40%
50%
Domestic credit (EUC1)
Domestic prepayment (EUC1)
I&C < 73,200 kWh (EUC1)


Gas connections in West
Medium and Large I&C (>73,200 kWh/annum)
25%
0%
75%
I&C < 732,000 kWh (EUC2)
I&C > 732,000 kWh (EUC3)
I&C Daily Metered


Gas consumption in West
Domestic and small I&C (<73,200 kWh/annum)
44%
56%
Domestic Credit & Small I&C (EUC1)
Domestic prepayment (EUC1)

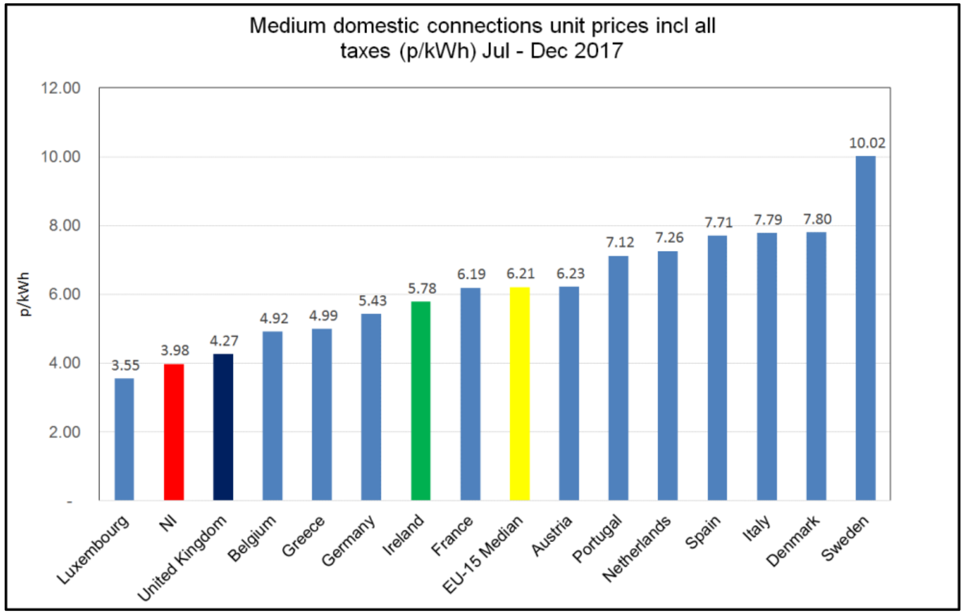

Gas consumption in West
Medium and Large I&C (>73,200 kWh/annum)
0.00%
0.13%
99.87%
I&C < 732,000 kWh (EUC2)
I&C > 732,000 kWh (EUC3)
I&C Daily Metered

7 Gas prices

7.1 Comparison against EU prices

The gas prices section, also follows the Eurostat format and methodology (as outlined in section 3.4 electricity prices). As a result the average prices for NI are comparable with prices in other EU countries (those published in BEIS's Quarterly Energy Prices reports[29] and Eurostat data base[30]) once these figures have been converted to GBP.

The pricing data detailed in this QTR is for the semester July to December 2017 (S2). In the domestic graph show below, we use unit prices which include Climate Change Levy (CCL) and include VAT, as this reflects the final prices paid by domestic customers. The medium sized domestic customers (annual consumption between 5,557 - 55,557 kWh) have been selected for the purpose of analysis, as this consumption category reflects the majority of domestic customers in NI.



Source: Eurostat and NI gas suppliers collated by UR

The NI unit price is the average pence per kWh for medium customers for the Greater Belfast and Ten Towns network areas. The NI domestic gas prices rank among the lowest in the EU[31]. The NI gas prices is less than GB, RoI and considerably less than the EU median. It should be noted that the vast majority of NI domestic

29 https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/quarterly-energy-prices
30 http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/data/database

31 For the Medium domestic size band, S2 2017 data was unavailable for Greece as at the date of publication. S1 2017 data was used for Greece in this size band for illustrative purposes.

gas connections are customers of the relevant network incumbent suppliers and are therefore subject to their regulated tariffs.

During the period illustrated in the graph (Semester 2: July to December 2017), the regulated tariffs remain the same. However price increases were announced by SSE Airtricity in the Greater Belfast area and firmus energy in the Ten Towns in March 2018, further detail on these are available in the UR tariff review briefing notes[32]. The table below illustrates the regulated tariffs for S2 2017 period.

Table 25 Regulated Gas Supply Tariffs

Jul - Dec 2017	Greater Belfast & West SSE Airtricity	Ten Towns firmus energy
Domestic Regulated Tariff Usage for first 2,000 kWh	5.445 p/kWh	6.690 p/kWh
Domestic Regulated Tariff Usage >2,000 kWh	3.732 p/kWh	4.511 p/kWh

[32] Firmus energy (Supply) Ltd March 2018 UR tariff review for the Ten Towns is available here. SSE Airtricity Gas Supply (NI) Ltd UR tariff review for Greater Belfast is available here.

Glossary

CCL	The Climate Change Levy (CCL) is a tax on electricity, gas and solid fuels delivered to I&C consumers. Its objective is to encourage businesses to reduce their energy consumption or use energy from renewable sources. The rate changes every year.
CoS	Change of supplier
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical office of the EU. Its task is to provide the EU with statistics at European level that enable comparisons between countries and regions
feDL	firmus energy (Distribution) Limited
firmus energy	firmus energy (Supply) Limited
GB	Great Britain
GBP	Great British Pound
I&C	Industrial and Commercial
kWh	Kilowatt hour. Unit of energy equivalent to one kilowatt (1kW) of power expended for one hour (1h) of time. 1,000kWh = 1MWh. 1,000MWh = 1GWh.
NI	Northern Ireland
NIEN	Northern Ireland Electricity Networks
LEU	Large Energy Users
Ofgem	Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets
PNGL	Phoenix Natural Gas Limited
Q	Quarter. In this report, Q refers to the calendar year (i.e. Q1 refers to the quarter January-March).
QTRs	Quarterly Transparency Reports published by the UR at the end of the second month after each calendar quarter (at the end of Feb, May, Aug and Nov).
REMM	Retail Energy Market Monitoring
RoI	Republic of Ireland
SGN NG	SGN Natural Gas
S1	Semester 1
S2	Semester 2
UR	Utility Regulator
VAT	Value Added Tax
UK	United Kingdom

Annex A: Supplier Entry to Retail Markets

The tables below set out the dates that each supplier entered the retail market sectors.

Electricity	
Domestic	Incumbent supplier: Power NI June 2010: SSE Airtricity June 2009: firmus supply June 2011: Budget Energy October 2011: Electric Ireland October 2015: Click Energy October 2015: Open Electric December 2016: Open Electric ceased supply
I&C	Incumbent supplier: Power NI July 1999: ESB Independent Energy (NI) t/a Electric Ireland August 1999: Energia January 2008: SSE Airtricity April 2009: firmus supply[33] July 2011: Budget Energy February 2012: VAYU April 2012: Go Power October 2015: Click Energy

Gas: Greater Belfast Area[34]	
Domestic	Incumbent supplier since September 1996: SSE Airtricity[35] July 2010: firmus energy
I&C	Incumbent supplier since September 1996: SSE Airtricity September 2008: firmus energy March 2009: Vayu May 2013: Electric Ireland August 2014: Go Power December 2014: Flogas

Gas: Ten Towns Area[36]	
Domestic	Incumbent supplier since 2005: firmus
I&C	Incumbent supplier since 2005: firmus January 2013: SSE Airtricity May 2015: Flogas June 2015: Go Power January 2017: Vayu April 2017: Electric Ireland

Gas: West Area[37]	
Domestic	July 2017 Designated Commissioning Supplier: SSE Airtricity
I&C	January 2017: Electric Ireland July 2017: SSE Airtricity January 2018: Flogas

[33] Note that firmus supply left the electricity market at the end of 2015.
[34] The Greater Belfast area is defined in Schedule 1 of the Phoenix Natural Gas Limited conveyance licence.
[35] Formerly Phoenix Supply Ltd (PSL).
[36] The Ten Towns area is defined in Schedule 1 of the firmus energy (Distribution) Limited conveyance licence.
[37] The West area is defined in Schedule 1 of the Scotia Gas Networks Northern Ireland Ltd (Distribution) Limited conveyance licence.