



The Consumer Council

Elizabeth House
116 Hollywood Road
Belfast
BT4 1NY

**Joe Craig
Wholesale Markets
Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast
BT1 6ED**

4 September 2014

Dear Joe

**Re: Consultation on Aggregated Generator Units (AGU) &
Demand Side Units (DSU) Licensing Arrangements**

The Consumer Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

The Consumer Council recognises that AGU's and DSU's have the potential to reduce the bills of scheme participants, help address Northern Ireland's potential 2016 electricity supply gap and, with the use of renewable energy, help Northern Ireland achieve its target of having 40 per cent renewable electricity by 2020.

However, we are unclear if AGU's and DSU's could have an impact on the cost of energy for the general consumer's base. We therefore would ask if a cost benefit analysis has been undertaken or if any information is available in relation to consumers bills on the issue of AGU's and DSU's?

On the premise that AGU's and DSU's will not produce an upward pressure on consumers' bills, we support proposals that facilitate the opportunity for more AGU's and DSU's to be set up. As the potential for DSU's has not yet

been fully realised we would ask the Regulator to act to remove as quickly as possible, all barriers to their use.

We recognise the aims of the proposed interim licensing solution as being broadly in line with existing licensable activities and support those aims.

If you wish to discuss the attached in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact Richard Williams.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Williams', with a stylized, flowing script.

Richard Williams
Head of Policy (Energy)