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Belfast
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Alison Farr
The Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast
BT1 6ED

11th May 2015

Dear Alison,

Consultation on extension to programme and reallocation of costs between customer groups

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. Carillion has delivered NISEP schemes on behalf of Power NI for over 12 years and we have seen at first hand the improvement that these measures have on people's lives. Although the House Condition Survey indicates that most homes have heating systems and some form of insulation, we find there is a consistent demand for the schemes that we manage.

Fuel poverty continues to be a serious problem in Northern Ireland; it is widely accepted that the available budget for Affordable Warmth and the Boiler Replacement Scheme is insufficient to overcome fuel poverty. The continued use of a levy-based approach should complement the government-funded schemes and allow more people to benefit. We have become increasingly concerned that NISEP was coming to an end with no replacement.

We are therefore supportive that NISEP should continue for another year.

We acknowledge that DETI has made its extension conditional on the reallocation of the costs, with a greater proportion being contributed by domestic electricity consumers.

We therefore agree with the views of the Fuel Poverty Coalition that:

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP) must continue until such time as a suitable alternative scheme is introduced which maintains a high percentage of ring-fenced activity deliberately targeted at low income households in fuel poverty.

Yours sincerely,

Jillian

Jillian Ferris
Business Development Manager