



The Consumer Council

Elizabeth House,
116 Hollywood Road,
Belfast BT4 1NY
Tel 028 9067 2488
Fax 028 9065 7701
e mail info@consumercouncil.org.uk

13 May 2010

Ref: PD20010837

Billy Walker
Utility Regulator
Queens House
10-18 Queen Street
BELFAST
BT1 6ED

Dear Billy,

Re: All-island Generator Transmission Use of System (TUoS) charging

The Consumer Council is a Non-Departmental Public Body set up in legislation to safeguard the interests of all consumers, and particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged. The Consumer Council is an independent organisation which operates to promote and protect the consumer interest.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation on the all-island generator Transmission Use of System (TUoS) charging.

With fuel poverty levels in Northern Ireland at 44 per cent, many households are struggling to adequately heat their home, it is important that the regulatory structures look to minimise the cost of energy to consumers.

The Consumer Council believes that any decision on all-island generator TUoS charging must be taken in the interest of all consumers. Any changes to the current procedure should only be undertaken if they will benefit all consumers. The benefits for all consumers will ultimately be realised through lower final bills.

It is important that any decisions on any of the four issues take into consideration the overall impact on the final bills charged to consumers. Ultimately any changes should aim to improve the economic efficiency of all generators and suppliers in the all-island market, which will provide benefits for consumers in the form of lower bills.

I hope that these comments are helpful and are given due consideration.
Please contact me if you require any clarification.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Murray
Senior Consumer Affairs Officer