



The Consumer Council

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31 August 2010

Ref: PD20010628

Jody O'Boyle
Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast
BT1 6ED

Dear Jody,

Re: Capacity Payments Mechanism FCPPy and ECPPy for Trading Year 2011 consultation paper

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 capacity payments mechanisms FCPPy and ECPPy for trading year 2011.

It is the position of the Consumer Council that any decision about the regulatory structure of the Northern Ireland Energy Market should only be undertaken in the interest of the consumer. With fuel poverty levels in Northern Ireland reaching crisis levels, with one in two households struggling to adequately heat their home, it is important that the regulatory structures look to minimise the cost of energy to consumers.

The value of the capacity payments mechanism FCPPy and ECPPy for trading year 2011 should represent the most beneficial option for consumers both in terms of price and level of service.

The Consumer Council would like the Regulator Authorities and the Transmission System Operators to keep in mind that its primary objective of any decision is to protect the consumer.

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