



The Consumer Council

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14 October 2011

Ref: PD20010946

Paul Brandon
Commission for Energy Regulation
The Exchange
Belgard Square North
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Dear Paul,

Re: Treatment of Price Taking Generation in Tie Breaks in Dispatch in the Single Electricity Market and Associated Issues

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 treatment of price taking generation in tie break in dispatch in the Single Electricity Market (SEM) and associated issues.

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 Consumer Council would like the Regulator Authorities, the Transmission System Operators and the SEM Committee to keep in mind that its primary objective of any decision is to protect the consumer. Any decision taken by the SEM Committee must provide benefits for all electricity consumers. These benefits will ultimately be realised through lower final 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