

Retail Energy Markets and Consumers team Department for Energy Security and Net Zero Floor 3, 1 Victoria Street London SW1H 0FT

Domestic consumers with non-domestic energy supply contracts: call for evidence

The End Fuel Poverty Coalition campaigns to influence government and other bodies to take action to end fuel poverty and thereby improve people's health and quality of life as well as seeking to reduce the cost of living, create jobs and negate carbon emissions in the process. It is a broad coalition of over 70* anti-poverty, environmental and health campaigners, local authorities, trade unions and consumer organisations.

Our members will have responded individually to this call for evidence – outlining the hardships and unique circumstances faced by domestic consumers with non-domestic energy supply contracts.

We would request that you give full consideration to the responses submitted by charities working on the front line of tackling poverty and providing advice to these groups, who are often excluded from support (as set out in Age UK's response to the call for evidence).

Due to the "hard to reach" nature of many of the groups affected, we would ask for reassurances from the evidence gathering team that sufficient responses have been secured from these groups. We are concerned that an online form is not a sufficient mechanism to generate evidence.

We would also request that information relating to any public engagement campaign to generate responses is set out in the documentation published in response to the call for evidence.

Our members will have done their best to help spread the word about the call for evidence, but the Department must appreciate that, among these organisations, significant resource pressures exist. This includes the fact that 23 government-linked consultations and calls for evidence have been announced in the summer months of 2023. Each of these consultations generates existing work for teams who are also helping people in need and it is not possible to respond as fully to every call for input as we may like.

We would strongly urge the Department to move to consult fully and then review legislation affecting domestic consumers with non-domestic energy supply in the coming months.

This would ensure the issues faced by this group can be properly explored and reforms to our energy system are implemented to help these often forgotten households.

The End Fuel Poverty Coalition, 18 September 2023

* Members of the Coalition include: Action with Communities in Rural England, ACE Research, Advice for Renters, AgeUK, All Birmingham's Children, Austerity Action Group, Association of Green Councillors, Association of Local Energy Officers, Association for Decentralised Energy, Asthma + Lung UK, Beat the Cold, Brighton & Hove City Council, Bruton Town Council, Camden Federation of Private Tenants, Child Poverty Action Group, Church Poverty Action, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Chartered Institute of Housing, Community Action Northumberland, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Climate Action Network West Midlands, Disability Poverty Campaign Group, Disability Rights UK, E3G, EBICO, End Child Poverty Coalition, Energy Saving Trust, Energy Cities, Fair Energy Campaign, Epilepsy Action, Foster Support, Friends of the Earth, Fuel Poverty Action, Fuel Poverty Research Network, Generation Rent, Good Law Project, Greenpeace, Groundwork, Hackney Foodbank, Home Start Oxford, Independent Age, Inner City Life, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Lambeth Pensioners Action Group, London Borough of Camden, London Borough of Lewisham, Mayor of London, Moorland Climate Action, National Pensioners Convention, National Union of Students / Students Organising for Sustainability, NCB, National Energy Action, New Economics Foundation, National Federation of Women's Institutes, Northern Health Services Alliance, Oxford City Council, Positive Money Tower Hamlets, Redcar & Cleveland Council, Repowering London, Retrofit Bruton, Right To Energy Coalition, Ryecroft Community Hub, Save the Children, Scope, Shaping Our Lives, Social Workers Union, South East London Community Energy, Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations, South West London Law Centres, Stonewater Housing Association, Stop The Squeeze, Uplift, UNISON, Warm & Well North Yorkshire, Warm & Well in Merton.

The coordination for the <u>End Fuel Poverty Coalition</u> is provided by social enterprise <u>Campaign Collective</u>. In Scotland we work closely with <u>Energy Action Scotland</u>. In Wales, we work with <u>Climate Cymru's Warm This Winter</u> activity and in Northern Ireland with the NEA-backed <u>Fuel Poverty NI coalition</u>.

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