



## **RENEWING THE BAN ON ACQUISITION-ONLY TARIFFS (BAT) AFTER MARCH 2026 END FUEL POVERTY COALITION RESPONSE**

**24 September 2025**

The End Fuel Poverty Coalition is a [broad coalition of more than 100 anti-poverty, health, housing and environmental campaigners, charities, local authorities, trade unions and consumer organisations](#). It is also supported by academics, social enterprises and those working on the front line of fighting fuel poverty.

We support the renewal of the Ban on Acquisition-only Tariffs (SLC 22B) until March 2027, alongside the Market-wide Derogation. Acquisition-only tariffs would penalise loyal and vulnerable customers, undermine consumer trust, and risk recreating the unsustainable and unfair practices which contributed to past supplier failures.

There is no evidence that this requirement has had a negative impact on customers switching, in fact Energy UK and Ofgem market reports suggest that switching is taking place and more customers are moving off variable tariffs, even with the BAT in place.

### **Q1. Do you agree that we should renew the temporary Ban on Acquisition-only Tariffs (SLC 22B) until 31 March 2027?**

Yes. Without BAT, suppliers could reserve their cheapest deals for new customers, leaving existing and often vulnerable customers trapped on higher tariffs. Public opinion is clear that this practice is unfair. Renewal is essential to prevent loyalty penalties and protect those least able to switch.

### **Q2. If you consider that SLC 22B should be removed from 31 March 2026, please share specific evidence to support your arguments.**

We do not support removal. There is no new compelling evidence that removing BAT would improve outcomes for consumers overall.

### **Q3. Do you agree that we should also retain the BAT's associated Market-wide Derogation until 31 March 2027, alongside the extension of the BAT?**

Yes. The derogation provides a necessary safety valve, allowing existing customers nearing the end of their fixed-term contracts to access competitive offers. Retaining this measure alongside BAT helps ensure fairness across the market.

### **Q4. If you consider that the Market-wide Derogation should be removed after 31 March 2026, please share specific evidence to support your arguments.**

We do not support removal.

We would be grateful if you could continue to keep the Coalition informed about developments in this consultation.

**About the End Fuel Poverty Coalition**

The End Fuel Poverty Coalition is a [broad coalition of more than 100 anti-poverty, health, housing and environmental campaigners, charities, local authorities, trade unions and consumer organisations](#). It is also supported by academics, social enterprises and those working on the front line of fighting fuel poverty.

We believe that everybody has the right to a warm, dry home that they can afford to heat and power.

Members of the Coalition include: [Action with Communities in Rural England](#), [ACE Research](#), [Age UK](#), [All Birmingham's Children](#), [Austerity Action Group](#), [Association of Green Councillors](#), [Association of Local Energy Officers](#), [Association for Decentralised Energy](#), [Asthma + Lung UK](#), [Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council](#), [Beat the Cold](#), Bruton Town Council, [Camden Federation of Private Tenants](#), [Carers Trust](#), [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](#), [Debt Justice](#), [Disability Poverty Campaign Group](#), [Disability Rights UK](#), [E3G](#), [Energise Sussex Coast](#), Energy Advice Line, Energy Cities, [Epilepsy Action](#), [Exeter Community Energy](#), Fair Energy Campaign, [Fair By Design](#), [Foster Support](#), [Fuel Poverty Action](#), Fuel Poverty Research Network, [Generation Rent](#), [Good Law Project](#), [Groundwork](#), Hackney Foodbank, [Heat Trust](#), [the HEET Project](#), Home Start Oxford, [Independent Age](#), [Independent Food Aid Network](#), [Inner City Life](#), [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#), [Lambeth Pensioners Action Group](#), [London Borough of Camden](#), London Borough of Lewisham, [Marches Energy Action](#), [Marie Curie](#), [Mencap](#), [Mayor of London](#), [MECC Trust](#), 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](#), [Plymouth Community Energy](#), Redcar & Cleveland Council, [Repowering London](#), Retrofit Bruton, Right To Energy Coalition, [Rossendale Valley Energy](#), [Ryecroft Community Hub](#), [Save the Children](#), [Sense](#), [Severn Wye](#), [Scope](#), [Shaping Our Lives](#), [Social Workers Union](#), [South Dartmoor Community Energy](#), [South East London Community Energy](#), [Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations](#), [South West London Law Centres](#), [Stop The Squeeze](#), [Tamar Energy Community](#), [Thinking Works](#), Uplift, [UNISON](#), Warm & Well North Yorkshire, [Warm & Well in Merton](#), [Winter Warmth Network](#), [Young Lives vs Cancer](#), [361 Energy](#).

The Coalition is also part of the [End Child Poverty Coalition](#) and the [Renters Reform Coalition](#). We work closely with [Energy Action Scotland](#), [NEA Wales](#) and the [Fuel Poverty NI coalition](#). The coordination for the [End Fuel Poverty Coalition](#) is provided by social enterprise [Campaign Collective](#).

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