



Scottish Pensioners' Forum
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This response may be published with the name of our organisation

This response may be shared with other departments dealing with this consultation

We may be contacted again, if necessary, to discuss the details of our response

Scottish Pensioners' Forum Response:
Resetting the Energy Debt Landscape: The Case for a Debt Relief
Scheme
DebtConsultations@ofgem.gov.uk

The Scottish Pensioners' Forum (SPF) is submitting some general points at this time rather than considering the mechanics of the scheme as a whole. We will continue to engage in workshops and stakeholder groups and will feed into the wider consultation as it progresses.

The following comments should be taken in this context.

1. The fragmented nature of energy 'market' – presently dysfunctional privatisation, there is a strong need for a 'national system' to be introduced
2. Debt has increased because of high energy prices, inflated by company profit-taking, with social and green charges being lumped onto consumers
3. Energy prices have continued to outstrip incomes
4. Scottish consumers are being adversely affected by a limited gas grid and colder climates
5. Government benefits cut-offs, e.g. Pension Credits
6. Government rather than consumers (socialisation of costs) should fund and administer social policy
7. It would seem that supplier balance sheets benefit from debt write-offs & subsequent recovery of debt from consumers
8. There is an urgent need to safeguard the most vulnerable.