



Caroline Jones AM
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27

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Dear Caroline

During the Plenary session held on 14 February you asked supplementary questions on smart meters. I undertook to contact the UK Government for answers to the points you raised as smart meters is not a devolved issue.

However I have subsequently been provided with information from Fflur Lawton who is Head of Policy and Communications Wales for Smart Energy GB which I believe provides the necessary information to answer the questions you raised which were:

- a) do the older type of smart meters tie energy customers to a single energy supplier and prevent switching?
- b) do energy customers have to pay for the older style meters ?
- c) how can we ensure energy customers in Wales receive the smart meter equipment type 2?

No matter which type of smart meter is installed at a property, a householder can switch energy supplier with no charge being applied. Having a smart meter will make energy switching much quicker for energy customers.

Energy customers do not have to pay any costs for either the install of the older version of smart meters known as SMET1 or the updated version known as SMET2. The SMET1 meters may lose the ability over time to send meter readings to new energy suppliers and the customer will need to send in meter readings. A " fix " is currently in development to resolve this situation which will involve no cost to the energy customer. All smart meters will be enrolled in a new National Communication Network which will electronically convey every household's smart meter energy readings to its relevant energy supplier and will avoid the need for meter readings to be made by the householder.

The standing charge applied on all energy bills covers energy infrastructure charges of which a proportion will be for smart meter costs.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The SMET2 type smart meter will be available for installation in households by energy suppliers from October 2018 onwards. However energy suppliers are determining how they roll-out smart meters across Great Britain and there is no specific geographical roll-out timetable. Consequently energy customers from October 2018 will not be aware of whether they have been provided with a SMET1 or a SMET2 type smart meter.

If you have further questions on smart meters I would recommend you contact Fflur Lawton by email Fflur.Lawton@smartenergygb.org or visit the Smart Energy GB website at <https://www.smartenergygb.org>

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs