



Alan Craig
Price Control Manager
Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast
BT1 6ED

27 November 2024

Dear Alan,

Re: Licence Modifications Pursuant to the RP7 Final Determination and other Regulatory Decisions

I am writing regarding the consultation on Licence Modifications Pursuant to the RP7 Final Determination and other Regulatory Decisions.

The Consumer Council

The Consumer Council is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) established through the General Consumer Council (Northern Ireland) Order 1984. Our principal statutory duty is to promote and safeguard the interests of consumers in Northern Ireland.

The Consumer Council has specific statutory duties in relation to energy, postal services, transport, water and sewerage. These include considering consumer complaints and enquiries, carrying out research, and educating and informing consumers.

The impact of RP7 and NIE Networks in delivering for Northern Ireland consumers

The electricity network in Northern Ireland needs to be improved, maintained and future proofed. The RP7 Final Determination price control for NIE Networks (NIEN) is extremely important as it determines the level of investment that is going to be put into our energy systems for the next six years (2025 to 2031).

We are pleased that NIEN accepted the £2.23 billion RP7 package as this now provides certainty for consumers on investment, prioritization and delivery and provides certainty around the potential impact on consumer bills.

As the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) for Northern Ireland, NIEN will play a pivotal role in development of the future energy system as it transitions to net zero.

Views on the overall licence modifications

The Consumer Council is content that a number of the decisions detailed in the RP7 Final

Determination need to be implemented through licence modifications to bring them into effect.

The Consumer Council looks forward to working closely with the Utility Regulator and NIEN in the Customer Engagement Advisory Panel (CEAP) to monitor the provision of the RP7 package and to ensure that the correct balance is being struck between the cost to consumers and the outcomes that will be delivered.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,



Raymond Gormley
Head of Energy