



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Rt Hon. Ian Murray MP
Minister of State
Department for Science, Innovation
& Technology
22-26 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2EG

www.gov.uk/dsit

Dame Chi Onwurah MP
Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

6 July 2026

Dear Dame Chi,

**REGULATIONS TO EXPAND THE INFORMATION SHARING POWERS IN PART 5
(CHAPTER ONE) OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY ACT 2017 TO REDUCE ENERGY DEBT**

I am writing to share with you and your Committee details of the Digital Government (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2026 which are being laid in draft before Parliament today under the affirmative procedure. These Regulations use powers under the Digital Economy Act 2017 and contain two measures in relation to information sharing for the purpose of assisting people living in fuel poverty. The first measure will enable data sharing between certain public authorities and energy suppliers in connection with debt relief requirements imposed by Ofgem. The second measure will specify the Departments for Energy, Security and Net Zero and Science, Innovation and Technology as public authorities that may share data with other certain public authorities for the purpose of the Fuel Poverty Objective in the Digital Government (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2018.

These Regulations will enable specified public authorities to share information to support the delivery of Ofgem's Debt Relief Scheme, as well as wider fuel poverty related work, including delivery of the National Data Library Household Income Kickstarter, a data access use case that is exploring how linking public sector data securely, can help identify households in energy debt and target support more effectively.

The laying of these measures strengthens the Government's ability to address fuel poverty. As the potential for price rises looms this winter, these powers will support efforts to identify those most at risk, and ensure that appropriate, targeted assistance can be provided in a timely and coordinated manner.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Murray

Rt Hon. Ian Murray MP
Minister of State for Digital Government and Data