



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
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From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair

Professor Martin Cave
Chair, Ofgem
(By e-mail)

27 July 2021

Dear Martin,

The Committee is grateful to Dr Jane Dennett-Thorpe, Ofgem's Deputy Director of Decarbonisation and Energy Transition for giving evidence to the Committee as part of our inquiry into the role of hydrogen in achieving Net Zero and for her follow-up letter after the evidence session.

In the course of our inquiry, we have heard evidence that the current generation of smart meters is not compatible with metering hydrogen.¹

Given Ofgem's statutory and independent remit is to "work to protect energy consumers" and to draw attention to "important policy gaps that affect consumers" we are interested, in preparing our Report, in Ofgem's intentions in this area.

One of our witnesses, Dr Hanton made the point that "metering is something that is quite often overlooked or taken for granted", and also told the Committee that it is "quite pressing that we start to answer the metrology issues around meters, otherwise it will become the weak link in the chain or the rate-limiting step in terms of moving forwards".

We are concerned that this issue of metering hydrogen may well constitute "an important policy gap that affects consumers" in line with the Ofgem remit. We would be grateful for your assurances that you are working "to protect energy consumers" in this regard, and for an indication of the timescales for Ofgem looking at this issue.

I would be grateful if you could provide us with this information by Monday 16 August. As is usual with the Committee's correspondence, I will place this letter and your response in the public domain.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Clark".

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair

¹ Asked if the generation of smart meters that are currently being rolled out across the UK would work with hydrogen, Angus McIntosh, Director of Energy Futures at SGN (a gas distribution company), [told the Committee](#): "The answer is no. There are quite a number of lessons to learn from the smart metering roll-out, but current installations will not be hydrogen compatible in their current form. We would need to replace them with hydrogen-ready versions, which have exactly the same functionality but are just forward compatible. He added that operators were "already seeing some of the issues with smart meters not being compatible when customers change supplier and they lose their smart meter functionality".