

**Professor Martin Cave**  
Chair

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Chair of Science and Technology Committee  
House of Commons, London  
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**ofgem**

Making a positive difference  
**for energy consumers**

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Dear Greg,

Thank you for your recent letter on the role of smart meters in relation to hydrogen. I welcome the constructive engagement of you and the Committee in this area, as we see the rollout of smart meters as central to our shift to a cleaner, more flexible and digitised system.

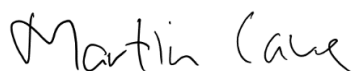
In your letter you highlight the need for metrology issues to be considered as a necessary precursor to deployment of hydrogen metering. We agree that this is an important issue, as consumers need to be confident they are being billed accurately and we have a role in ensuring that energy suppliers comply with obligations to provide accurate billing. In terms of the technical aspects of metrology, including the testing, certification and assurance of metering accuracy, responsibility for this area was transferred from Ofgem to the National Measurement and Regulation Office in 2009, and now sits within the Office of Product Safety Standards which is a part of BEIS.

Your letter also notes that the current generation of smart meters are not designed to be compatible with hydrogen metering. This is something we and BEIS have discussed. Our view is that a decision on the future of hydrogen and its role in home heating needs to be determined by government before any further decision on whether hydrogen compatible smart meters should be rolled out.

We would expect any government decision on metering to take account of the full range of costs and benefits to consumers. If, following this, BEIS made changes to the regulatory framework, then we would ensure that energy suppliers complied with amended obligations.

I hope this is useful, and I would be more than happy to meet with you in the near future to further explain our role, including how we are working with Government on this issue.

Yours sincerely,



**Martin Cave**  
Chair