



**Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero**

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Dame Meg Hillier
Chair of the Public Accounts
Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Dame Meg,

28 March 2023

Energy Bills Discount Scheme

My Department yesterday notified Parliament of a contingent liability in respect of the Energy Bills Discount Scheme.

To ensure transparency, I wanted to inform you that I consider the scheme to be covered by two existing directions in respect of value for money as it has the same relevant characteristics.

Whilst the Energy Bills Discount Scheme is more targeted than its predecessor, and therefore better value for money, essentially the same issues apply as they did to the Energy Bill Relief Scheme. An additional element seeks to provide support to domestic customers of heat networks equivalent to that provided to other domestic energy customers by the Energy Price Guarantee. The value for money considerations in respect of both elements are set out in the respective directions on those schemes which you have already received and are available on the government website.

In other respects I believe the requirements of Managing Public Money to be met.

I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General and will arrange for this letter to be published on the government website alongside the direction on the Energy Bill Relief Scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Pocklington

Permanent Secretary, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero