



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State
Department for Energy Security
and Net Zero
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

27 March 2023

Dear Meg,

Contingent Liability Notification: Energy Bills Discount Scheme

Please see attached a copy of the Departmental Minute outlining the Contingent Liabilities associated with the Energy Bills Discount Scheme (EBDS) for non-domestic energy consumers.

I regret that I have not been able to give the normal notice of 14 parliamentary sitting days before the Contingent Liabilities begin to be incurred for the EBDS. This is owing to the particular urgency of setting up the scheme in time for consumers to see benefits as soon as possible.

The scheme will apply to eligible non-domestic customer's actual gas and electricity consumption from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Funding for the EBDS will be sought through the Estimates process. Any future costs for the delivery of the EBDS can only be projections and will depend upon energy usage levels and changes to the wholesale price of energy. As a result, the EBDS will give rise to a contingent liability.

The Treasury has approved this proposal. If, during the period of 10 parliamentary sitting days beginning on the date on which this Minute was laid before parliament, a member signifies an objection by giving notice of a Parliamentary Question or by otherwise raising the matter in parliament, final approval to proceed with incurring the liability will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.

Yours ever,

RT HON GRANT SHAPPS MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero