



**Councillor Barry Anderson**

Chair, Scrutiny Board  
(Safer and Stronger Communities)  
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	Our ref	
	Date	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2012

Dear Sirs

**Fuel Poverty**

The Leeds City Council's Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities) recently concluded an inquiry into Fuel Poverty and published a report this month setting out its findings and recommendations. I have attached a copy of this report for your attention.

The Scrutiny Board acknowledges that the most distinctive feature of fuel poverty is its close relationship to the price of fuel and the way in which householders ration their heat. This was illustrated by the large number of households in fuel poverty in Leeds that are using a pre-payment meter (55%). During the inquiry, it was also brought to our attention that requests made to the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) for advice around fuel bills had increased by 75% over the last year. As part of the 'Big Energy Day' campaign led by the CAB in January 2012, consumers particularly valued the offer of assistance in finding the most appropriate fuel tariff to help reduce the cost of energy.

Linked to this, we acknowledged the proposed reforms associated with Ofgem's Retail Market Review, published in March 2011. In particular, we welcomed Ofgem's commitment to take action aimed at making it easier for consumers to identify who is offering the cheapest fuel tariff. We acknowledge Ofgem's recent consultation outlining the proposed methodology to set the standardised element of a standard tariff under the Retail Market Review. However, there is still no clear indication from Ofgem as to when such action will be taken. The Scrutiny Board has therefore expressed concern about the delay in implementing such action and has requested that I write to you to convey their concern.

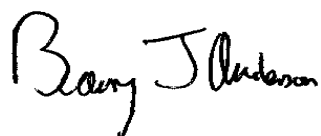
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I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter and also provide a written response by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012, which will be shared with the Scrutiny Board at a future meeting.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry J Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

**Councillor Barry Anderson**  
**Chair, Scrutiny Board**  
**(Safer and Stronger Communities)**

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