

TOMMY SHEPPARD MP



12 April 2024

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

Our Ref: ZA55422

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing on behalf of a number of constituents who recently contacted me regarding an issue with their energy bills.

My constituents in a 2019 development in Greendykes are reporting energy bill increases of 500% owed to their energy source being a district heating and energy source for the development.

As you're aware, the UK Government's Energy Bills discount Scheme which applied to commercial properties and includes district heating scheme serving residential areas ended at the end of March and now, as expected, residents are experiencing eye-watering increases in their bills.

I'm writing to ask you to take immediate action to close the loophole that exempts residential district heating supplies from the current price cap regime. This would resolve the substance of the issue and give the same protections for residents who are part of district heating supplies as already apply to residents with individual gas boilers.

You will appreciate the great deal of concern and worry this is causing affected residents so I'd be grateful if you can update me as a matter of extreme urgency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Sheppard'.

Tommy Sheppard
Member of Parliament for Edinburgh East