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Tuesday 30 June 2015

Dear Mr Browne

Protection of small businesses when purchasing goods and services – call for evidence, March 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above call for evidence.

As you are aware, the supply of energy is subject to a separate regulatory framework. We have not therefore considered it appropriate to answer the individual questions posed, however we would like to take this opportunity to share our views on this issue.

We believe that where there is a sector regulator, it should be left to that regulator to address any specific concerns it has within that sector. If such sector becomes subject to generic regulation that has taken no account of the sector-specific regulation there can be contradiction and confusion. For example, within the energy sector there is a different definition of MSBs than that applied for the purposes of the call for evidence.

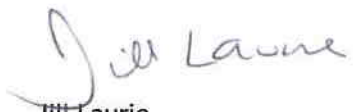
Ofgem has already put in place significant protections for small and micro-businesses; we believe, therefore, that the energy sector should be excluded from any new regulations that may result from this call for evidence and that Ofgem should be allowed to determine appropriate protections for the energy sector.

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I am happy for you to contact me if you have any questions about our response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jill Laurie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Laurie
Regulatory Executive