



Notice

Corrections to SEL's 2 April customer letter

SEL has notified customers that the majority of the exemptions it had granted from the minimum monthly charge will cease on 1st May 2022. Mr Witney Price claims that, during 2021, the granting of these exemptions had exerted only a minor impact on the electricity price in Sark, of around 1/3p per unit. In fact, during the operation of the Variation in 2021, exemptions to the minimum monthly charge amounted to around £3,500 per month, or around 3p per unit, not 1/3p per unit as SEL suggests. This is not the first time that Mr Witney-Price's arithmetical errors have led him to false conclusions. During the operation of the Price Control Order during 2021, these exemptions have not been funded from Mr Witney-Price's "own pocket", as SEL wrote to customers in January 2021, but by all customers.

The letter also suggests that my Office proposed the monthly 'minimum usage charge' in December 2017. This, too, is incorrect as may be found by reading the 2017 Consultation Paper, available at www.epc.sark.gg. I have made it clear to SEL that this form of tariff would not have been by preferred option.

I have advised Mr Witney-Price on a number of occasions that it is extremely misleading to use the figures in the 2017 Consultation Paper, since they are based on information from SEL which has subsequently been shown to seriously overestimate the value of SEL's equipment. These figures have since been updated in the 2019 Determination. It is most unfortunate that Mr Witney-Price continues to persist in presenting this old, inaccurate and therefore misleading information.

I can assure customers that, although the 2019 Price Control Order has expired, I continue to monitor the prices charged by SEL to determine whether they are fair and reasonable.

Anthony White
Commissioner

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5th April 2022