

14/09/17

Attn: The Daily Telegraph

Dear Sir,

Nick Timothy fails to recognise the rapid change that is underway within the energy sector, which is driving a highly competitive market and directly benefiting consumers (“We must rethink energy to boost competition”, 14 Sept 2017).

According to the Committee for Climate Change in 2016, typical ‘dual fuel’ households paid in real terms £115 less per year for their energy than they did in 2008, and energy efficiency improvements have been saving the typical household around £290 a year since 2008.

Consumer engagement is increasing – switching is up 30% on last year, with three million already changing supplier this year and with many more making a change with their existing supplier. The number of standard tariffs have fallen by almost a million in the past six months alone.

But the industry is not complacent. We want to see this increasing competition continue to increase and an energy market that works for all consumers, particularly for the most vulnerable. And we welcome greater transparency around costs.

It is important that we continue to invest in upgrading our energy system to ensure we deliver a decarbonised, smart and flexible system which is fit for the future that will ultimately benefit all consumers and keep bills down. This week’s allocations for offshore wind contracts demonstrates what happens when the Government provides the clarity and policy stability required for major investment - the industry responds and we see competition, investment and increasing innovation which drives down costs and benefits consumers.

With Great Britain leading innovation and price reductions across the energy sector now is certainly not the time to reduce our decarbonisation commitments. Continuing to be a world leader in energy will benefit the GB economy and form an important part of our industrial strategy.

We now need to see more from the Government as we await the publication of the Clean Growth Plan. We need to see ambition and leadership to encourage innovation to create a market that benefits society today and tomorrow, and that ensures the transition to a low carbon economy is delivered at the lowest cost to consumers.

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