



**Tourism NI – Leaner & Greener Cost Saving Masterclass**

**22 November 2022**

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# The Consumer Council



## We are the statutory consumer body for Northern Ireland

Extensive general powers and areas of statutory focus that represent, protect and empower consumers, with non-statutory functions covering unfair practices in any market.

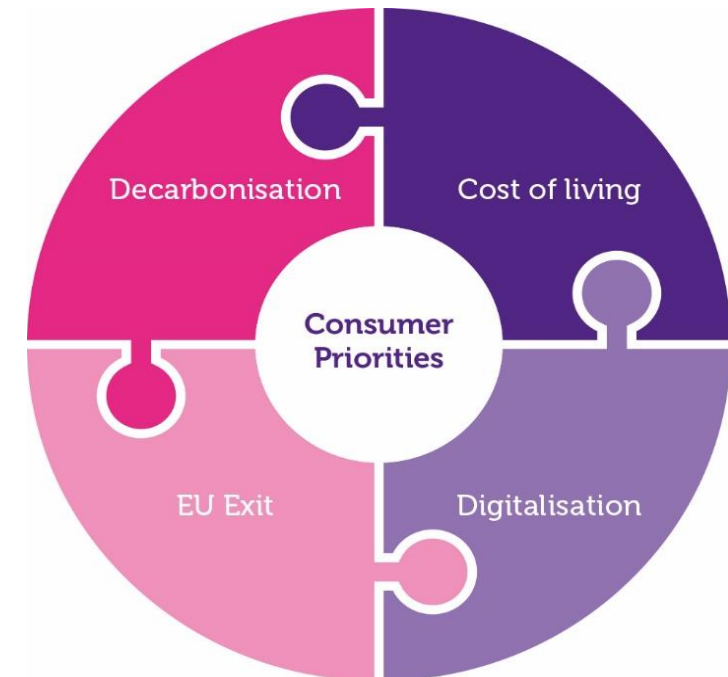
## We work collaboratively

With government, regulators, industry, academia, the third sector and civic society to safeguard and advance consumer protections in Northern Ireland.

## We apply the UN Consumer Protection Principles

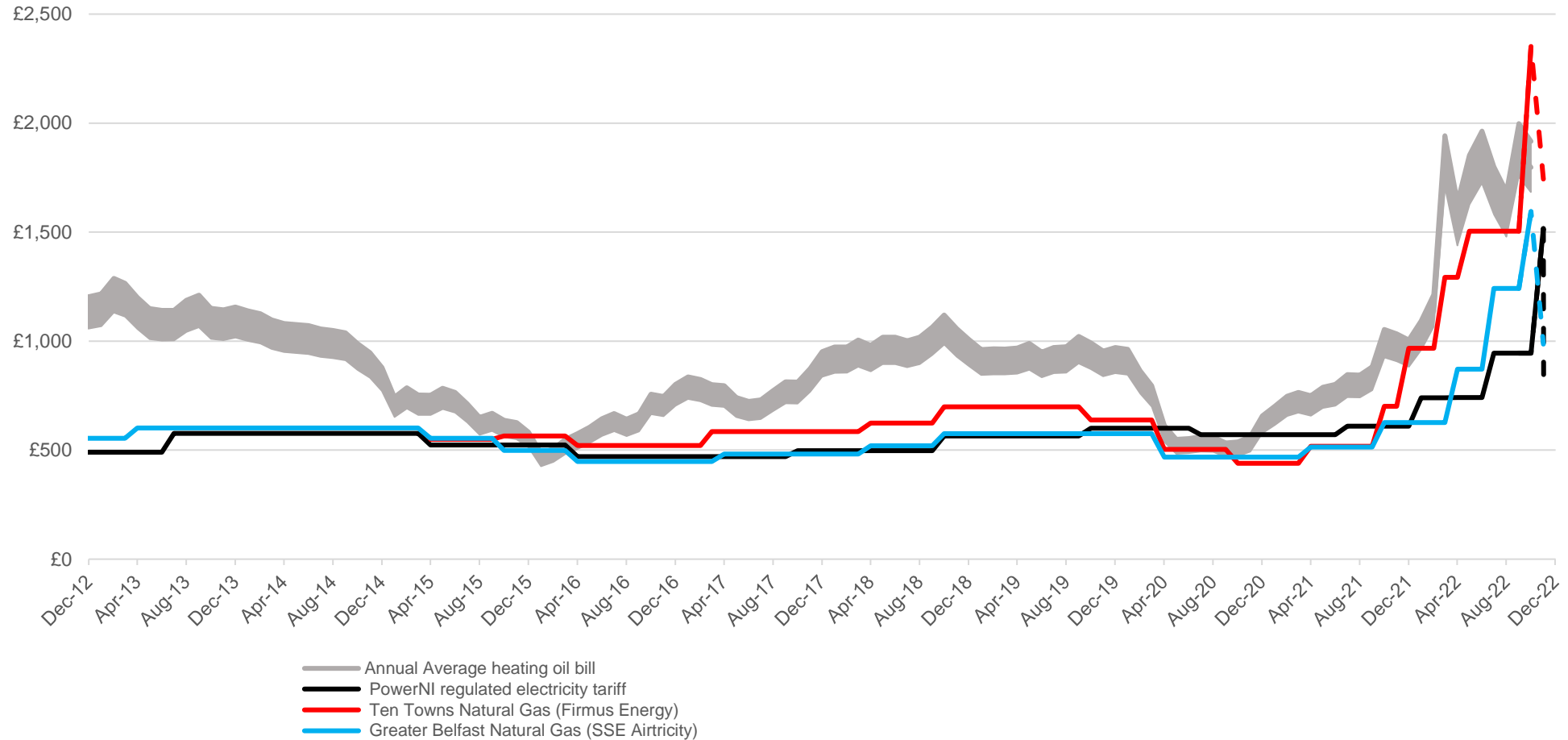
access || choice || education || fairness || information || redress  
|| representation || safety

## 2021-2024 Corporate Plan



# Northern Ireland consumer bills

## Average annual domestic energy bills in Northern Ireland



# How can we help you?

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## Range of online tools and support to help you reduce your costs

**Energy price  
comparison tool**

**Home heating  
oil price checker**

**Water bill  
health check**

**Energy advice**

**Appliance  
running costs**

**Complaints**

# Small Business Price Comparison Tool



## Compare small business tariffs – electricity and gas

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Energy Price Comparison Tool. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'SPEAK' button and various menu items like 'CONSUMERS', 'BUSINESSES', 'COST OF LIVING', etc. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Find Impartial Information' and a 'SEARCH' button. The main heading is 'Energy Price Comparison Tool'. Below the heading, there is introductory text explaining the tool's purpose and a 'Begin' button. At the bottom, there are two large buttons: 'Electricity' (with a lightbulb icon) and 'Gas' (with a flame icon), and a 'Start your comparison' button.

Tariffs up to 50,000kWh of electricity or 73,200kWh of natural gas per year

The screenshot shows the search results page for electricity tariffs. It features a table with columns for Supplier, Tariff, Price (Pence Per Unit) exc.VAT, Annual Indicative Cost exc. VAT, Key contract Terms & Conditions, and Contact Details. The table lists several tariffs from different suppliers, including Power NI, E.ON, and SSE Airtricity.

Supplier	Tariff	Price (Pence Per Unit) exc.VAT	Annual Indicative Cost exc. VAT	Key contract Terms & Conditions	Contact Details
Power NI	Standing Charge (per day)	9.55		1&2 yr fixed term contracts available. Energy prices fixed for contract period, pass-through charges may vary (as approved by the Utility Regulator or other relevant body). Additional discounts may be available for Direct Debit and Online billing. Exit fees may be applied (up to remaining contract value). Terms & Conditions apply. Subject to credit check, deposits may be required	Phone: 03457 455 455 or <a href="#">Email the Supplier</a>
	24 hour contract (per kWh)	30.45	£6,124.86		
E.ON	Standing Charge (per day)	26.00		Deposit will be reviewed upon sign up	Phone: 0800 012 1177 or <a href="#">Email the Supplier</a>
	24 hour contract (per kWh)	45.05	£9,104.90		
SSE Airtricity	Standing Charge (per day)	16.83		This offer is subject to payment by Direct Debit within 14 days of the invoice date.	Phone: 0345 266 0852 or <a href="#">Email the Supplier</a>
	24 hour contract (per kWh)	47.13	£9,487.43		
SSE Airtricity	Standing Charge (per day)	16.83		This offer is subject to payment by Direct Debit within 14 days of the invoice date.	Phone: 0345 266 0852 or <a href="#">Email the Supplier</a>
	24 hour contract (per kWh)	49.60	£9,981.43		

Eight electricity and six gas supplier tariffs

# Bills and tariffs

## Electricity tariffs

There are typically three types of electricity tariffs for small businesses;

- Popular (one flat rate)
- Day & night (with a cheaper rate at night)
- Weekender (cheaper rates at nights and weekends)

it is important that you are on the type of tariff that suits your business type.

## Fixed rates

- ↑ Clarity regarding the unit price of energy in advance
- ↑ Rate provides stability
- ↑ If wholesale prices go up you will benefit from the fixed lower price

- ↓ If wholesale prices fall your bill doesn't
- ↓ Exit fees are standard for termination and suppliers can cancel under certain conditions
- ↓ 12 – 24 month contracts

## Variable rates

- ↑ Bill drops with wholesale prices
- ↑ Contracts are less likely to be long term

- ↓ Unit price can increase
- ↓ No accurate forecast of costs for the contract period
- ↓ Struggle to return to fixed



# Home heating oil price checker

## Weekly survey of home heating oil prices

### Home Heating Oil Price Checker

17 November 2022

£273.95

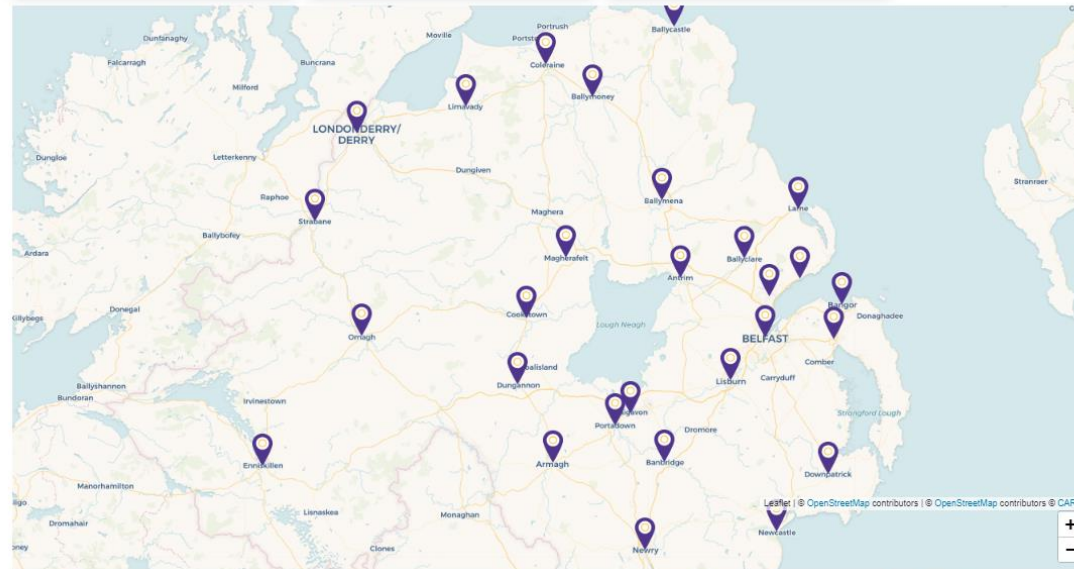
300L AVERAGE

£442.40

500L AVERAGE

£784.40

900L AVERAGE



COUNCIL	300L AVERAGE	500L AVERAGE	900L AVERAGE
<a href="#">Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey</a>	£272.30	£438.64	£778.80
<a href="#">Ards &amp; North Down</a>	£272.53	£440.17	£780.31
<a href="#">Armagh City, Banbridge &amp; Coleraine</a>	£278.25	£447.55	£780.43

# Energy efficiency

## Performance

**Assess building energy performance and electrical equipment performance** using the Consumer Council Running Costs Calculator and NI Business Info energy efficiency checklist

## Behaviour

**Encourage behavioural change** in staff travel and use of energy and water

## Support

Ask your supplier about grants available through the **Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP)** scheme. These can include lighting and heating control grants

**Consumer Council Water Use Health Checks help businesses reduce water bills and related costs**

**Other sources of advice include your energy supplier, the Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust**



**Thank you**

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