

We have consistently opposed the idea of a single communication company on the basis that we believe this will add cost, stifle innovation and reduce consumer benefit.

We believe that it is perfectly feasible to make the publication of the smart meter protocol part of the meter certification process and thereby ensure that any licensed supplier can read any accredited meter.

It is inevitable that the centralized DCC will not be able to respond to every technical development and will therefore restrict consumer benefit. For example Utilita has today got consumers on supply that have a distrusted heat supply rather than a gas supply. Such customers make up nearly 1 million premises in the UK. They are all excluded from the DCC service.

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