



Department of Energy & Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

Future Electricity Networks

3 Whitehall Place,

London SW1A 2AW

www.gov.uk/decc

Our ref: FOI 13/1120

September 2013

Further to your request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000, dated 19th August 2013, which sought:

a breakdown of households in the north of Scotland eligible for the Hydro Benefit Replacement Scheme. I'm particularly interested in the number of homes in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray and the value of savings for homes in those areas.

I am writing to advise you that DECC does not hold information on the breakdown of households by area in the North of Scotland benefitting from the Hydro Benefit Replacement Scheme. The closest information we hold to this is the number of domestic electricity meter points by local authority area, and this provides a broad approximation. However, it should be noted that the number of meters does not exactly equal the number of properties, for example because some households may have a 3-rate meter system with one meter which measures all consumption at a peak rate and another meter which measures two other rates of off-peak consumption. The data is published in the *Regional and Local Authority Electricity Consumption Statistics: 2005 to 2011*. The publication is available at the first link below, with guidance on how to interpret the data at the second link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190619/sub-national-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-2011.xls

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regional-energy-data-guidance-note>

Alternatively, the General Register Office for Scotland publishes an estimate of the number of households and dwellings in Scotland by local authority area, although this will not equate exactly to numbers of domestic electricity customers. The publication is available at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/household-estimates/he-12/2012-estimates-households-dwellings-Scotland.pdf>

The Hydro Benefit Replacement Scheme works by lowering the total cost of supplying electricity in the North of Scotland, and is not applied directly as an individual household discount. However, it is estimated that in 2011/12, the assistance amount provided to the 690,000 domestic customers in the North of Scotland was equivalent to an average bill reduction of £36 per year. Government's decision to retain the scheme means these customers, and non-domestic customers in this region, will continue to benefit from reduced bills.

Details are contained in the DECC response document for the review of the Hydro Benefit Replacement Scheme, which is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/229469/hydro_benefit_replacement_scheme_response.pdf

Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Services)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi.requests@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF