



Office of the Sark Electricity Price Control Commissioner

Press Release

Friday, 8th November, 2019

THE INVESTIGATION INTO SARK 'S ELECTRICITY PRICES MOVES TO A CRITICAL POINT

The on-going issue of electricity prices on Sark, the highest known in the world, has reached a critical point for the island's Electricity Price Control Commissioner and the sole supplier, Sark Electricity Limited.

After a full investigation and the analysis of responses from customers, the supplier and other interested parties, the Commissioner, Dr Anthony White, has confirmed that a price of around 53p per unit would be sufficient for Sark Electricity Limited to earn a reasonable profit. The price is currently 85p per unit and so is not fair and reasonable. The average UK price is 16p per unit.

The Commissioner's decision is laid out in full in a document, published today, called the Electricity Prices - Determination*. The Commissioner will now decide whether to move to the next stage of imposing a legally enforceable Price Control Order.

The Determination refutes allegations by SEL of bias and unfairness in the exercise of the Commissioner's powers. It also dismisses claims that he tried to bankrupt the company last year in collusion with Chief Pleas, Sark's Government.

The Commissioner restates his finding that the major reason for the high price of Sark's electricity (66p per unit during most of 2018 and 2019 and presently 85p per unit) is because SEL passes on unreasonable costs to its customers.

Submissions he has received say these high prices affect Sark's poorest customers particularly. Ultimately, he says, high prices threaten not only SEL's business prospects but the economy of the entire island.

* The Electricity Price Determination is available on the Electricity Price Commissioner's website www.epc.sark.gg
