

To all market participants and interested parties

Email: RetailPriceRegulation@ofgem.gov.uk

Date: 25 February 2025

## Energy price cap (default tariff) update from 1 April 2025

Dear colleagues,

Today we have published the updated cap levels for charge restriction period ("cap period") 14a, covering the three months from 1 April to 30 June 2025. Alongside the cap levels we have also published the updated versions of the cost allowance models. All figures in this letter reflect the latest (2023) Typical Domestic Consumption Values (TDCV)<sup>2</sup>.

We are obliged to update the price cap level at intervals by applying updated inputs for items such as wholesale costs to the price cap formulae which have been determined by our previous decisions. That is what we have done today. In updating the price cap in this way, we are not making a policy decision or exercising a judgment.

Alongside the cap levels, we will also be publishing the decision regarding a further extension to Additional Support Credit (ASC) bad debt cost allowance. Furthermore, you will also find the decision on how we will introduce a Network Charging Compensation Scheme Allowance (NCC) in the energy price cap.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The data used in this document is not intended for use as an index by reference to which the amount payable under a financial instrument or a financial contract, or the value of a financial instrument, is determined, or as an index that is used to measure the performance of an investment fund with the purpose of tracking the return of such index or of defining the asset allocation of a portfolio or of computing the performance fees. Such outputs may not be used as a benchmark with the meaning of the EU Benchmark Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/11 on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment funds) Regulation, UK Benchmark Regulation or otherwise.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ofgem (2023), <u>Decision for Typical Domestic Consumption Values</u>

## Summary of changes to the energy price cap by payment method and meter type

Cap level	January to March 2025	April to June 2025	Change (£)	Change (%)
Direct Debit	£1,738	£1,849	£111	6.4%
Standard Credit	£1,851	£1,969	£118	6.4%
PPM	£1,690	£1,803	£113	6.7%
Economy 7 (Direct Debit)	£1,150	£1,201	£51	4.5%

All bill values presented in this document are calculated using the current Typical Domestic Consumption Values (TDCVs), 2,700kWh for electricity, 11,500 kWh for gas and 3,900 kWh for multi-register meters, such as Economy 7 customers. All values are rounded to the nearest  $\pounds$  or %.

**Direct Debit level** - The level of the Direct Debit price cap³, for cap period 14a (1 April to 30 June 2025) will increase from £1,738 to £1,849 for a typical customer. This represents an increase of £111 (6%) compared to the previous level (1 January to 31 March 2025). For electricity only customers on Economy 7 meters, the Direct Debit cap level will increase from £1,150 to £1,201 which is an increase of £51 (5%) compared to the previous level.

**Standard Credit level** – From 1 April 2025, the standard credit cap level will also increase and will be £1,969, a £118 (6%) increase compared to the previous level. Customers who pay by standard credit (cash or cheque) will pay an additional £120 compared to those who pay by Direct Debit. Standard credit is the most expensive payment method option under the price cap. For electricity only customers on Economy 7 meters, the standard credit cap level will increase to £1,275 (a £55 (5%) increase compared to the previous level). This is an additional £74 compared to paying by Direct Debit

**PPM level** - The PPM cap level will also increase and will be £1,803, a £113 (7%) increase compared to the previous level. The PPM cap level will be £46 lower compared to Direct Debit cap level. For electricity only customers on Economy 7 meters, the PPM cap level will increase to £1,176 (a £51 (5%) increase compared to the previous level), which means they'll pay £25 less compared to paying by Direct Debit.

You can get a further breakdown by payment type of the cost components which make up the price cap in the attached appendices. More details on the energy price cap can be found at <u>get energy price cap standing charges and unit rates by region</u> on the Ofgem website.

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  The level of the cap shown is for a dual fuel, Direct Debit customer, calculated using the 2023 Typical Domestic Consumption Values (TDCVs). All values are rounded to the nearest £ or %.

## What's driving the changes to the April - June 2025 cap level?

The main factors which have produced the change in the cap level are updates in the model inputs for:

- Wholesale costs The wholesale cost allowance has increased by £86 (11%), from £755 to £841. Wholesale prices observed during the relevant period have increased compared with the previous price cap period, especially for gas, primarily due to below average temperatures across Europe this winter, causing high gas storage withdrawals. This means that there will be high demand for gas over summer to refill storage across Europe in time for next winter, increasing prices. This has coincided with the loss of Russian pipeline gas imports into Europe via Ukraine from the beginning of 2025, with Europe now more heavily reliant on the global LNG market for imports to compensate for lost Russian supply; European gas prices have had to remain sufficiently high to attract sufficient LNG cargoes to meet demand.
- **Policy costs** The policy cost allowance has increased by £11 (6%), from £187 to £198 per year for a typical consumer. This has been driven by the introduction of a Network Charge Compensation scheme allowance (NCC) (£3), an increase in the Renewable Obligation (RO) allowance for the new financial year (£3 increase), and an increase in the Green Gas Levy (GGL) (£3 increase). There is also a £1 increase in the ECO allowance.
- Other costs From 1 April 2025, Britain's standing charges will reduce for most households. Electricity standing charges on average will fall by 7.17p per day (12%) and gas standing charges will broadly increase by 1.02p per day (3%) for a typical consumer. However, this will vary considerably by region, and some regions will see an increase driven by changes in certain distribution network costs which fall on the standing charge.

## Compliance with the price caps

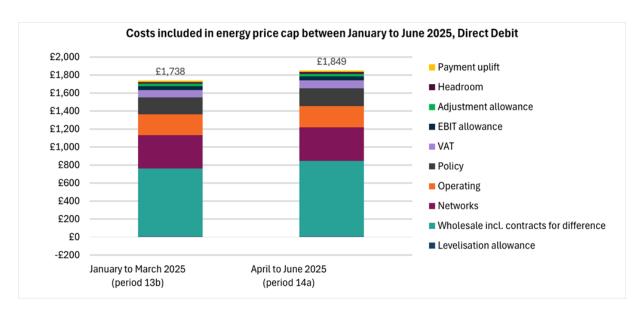
We expect suppliers to take seriously their obligations and comply with business-asusual practices in line with Standard Licence Conditions. Ofgem will be closely monitoring supplier compliance and will continue to take firm action against suppliers who fall short of their requirements.

We expect any related data provided to Ofgem to be accurate, complete and provided in a timely manner. We will also continue to monitor the quality of service suppliers deliver to their customers and stand ready to take compliance and enforcement action in the event that any licence requirements or contract terms are not met.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Newport
Deputy Director, Price Cap

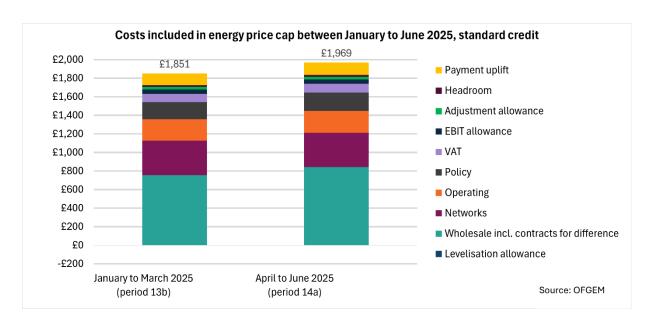
Annex 1 - Direct Debit Price Cap Cost Breakdown (April - June 2025)



Cost	January to March 2025	April to June 2025	Change (£)	Change (%)
VAT	£83	£88	£5	6.4%
Earnings Before Interest and Tax (EBIT) allowance	£43	£45	£2	4.1%
Payment uplift	£16	£16	£1	3.7%
Adjustment allowance	£28	£28	£0	0.0%
Headroom	£18	£20	£2	8.1%
Policy	£187	£198	£11	5.8%
Operating	£232	£235	£4	1.6%
Networks	£370	£372	£2	0.6%
Wholesale incl. contracts for difference	£755	£841	£86	11.4%
Levelisation allowance	£7	£6	-£1	-8.4%
Total	£1,738	£1,849	£111	6.4%

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

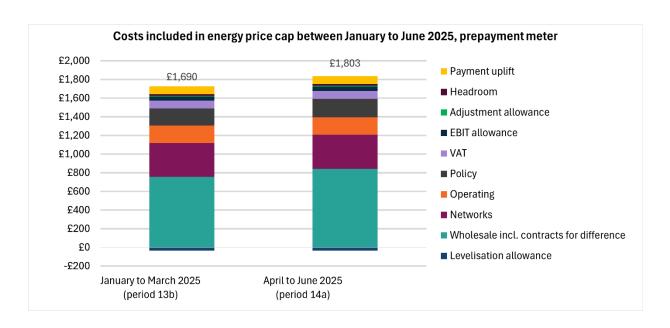
Annex 2 - Standard Credit Price Cap Cost Breakdown (April - June 2025)



Cost	January to A March 2025	April to June 2025	Change (£)	Change (%)
VAT	£88	£94	£6	6.4%
Earnings Before Interest and Tax (EBIT) allowance	£45	£46	£2	4.2%
Payment uplift	£126	£133	£6	5.1%
Adjustment allowance	£28	£28	£0	0.0%
Headroom	£20	£22	£2	7.9%
Policy	£187	£198	£11	5.8%
Operating	£232	£235	£4	1.6%
Networks	£370	£372	£2	0.6%
Wholesale incl. contracts for difference	£755	£841	£86	11.4%
Levelisation allowance	£0	£0	£0	-
Total	£1,851	£1,969	£118	6.4%

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

Annex 3 - Prepayment Price Cap Cost Breakdown (April - June 2025)



Cost	January to March 2025	April to June 2025	Change (£)	Change (%)
VAT	£80	£86	£5	6.7%
Earnings Before Interest and Tax (EBIT) allowance	£43	£45	£2	4.1%
Payment uplift	£83	£85	£1	1.6%
Adjustment allowance	£9	£9	£0	0.0%
Headroom	£18	£20	£1	7.9%
Policy	£187	£198	£11	5.8%
Operating	£187	£186	£0	-0.1%
Networks	£363	£366	£4	4%
Wholesale incl. contracts for difference	£755	£841	£86	11.4%
Levelisation allowance	-£35	-£33	£2	-6.5%
Total	£1,690	£1,803	£113	6.7%

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.