

Objection to the proposed hikes in electricity prices to pay for the cost of Eirgrid and ESB Network's project.

(1) Two-Agency structure to own and operate the national grid.

*Get rid of this arrangement and have a single agency to deal with both.

(2) Bonus Culture

*Get rid of this cost (up to 15%), the staff are extremely well paid.

(3) Paying for the pension deficits.

* no way - recover this cost from general taxation.

(4) Missing maintenance targets.

* This was a consistent under-performance and (3) above should not be paid.

(5) Smart Metering - says the consumer will save as much as €50 a year by monitoring their electricity use, but the cost is being added onto electricity bills. A saving for the consumer here - a joke surely.

I am a small SME struggling to survive in the present poor economic climate. I have a small warehouse which I cannot rent out, the electricity used is practically nil, and yet I am being hit for a low usage charge. My ESB bill based on usage only would amount to less than €20, but because of the low usage charge I end up with a bill of approx. €90. This is disgraceful, in view of the ESB Smart Metering promise, and the public perception given by the ESB that they are advising ways of reducing the customer ESB bills - false advertising and concern by ESB.

In view of the above, I simply do not want any increase in my electricity costs, in fact, I am looking for a major reduction.

This applies to my home ESB bill also - no more increases to pay for padded wages, bonuses and excessive pensions.

Regards,

Thomas Coady