
Thank you for your email of 29 June 2018, in which you ask a number of questions regarding our implementation of specific provisions contained within the above Act.

In 2010, North Ayrshire Council introduced a Council Tax energy efficiency discount scheme to encourage improvements to be made to the energy efficiency of a domestic property. The cost of the discount scheme was not to be met by the Council, but from utility companies who had an obligation to achieve carbon reductions under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT).

At the time, British Gas were the only utility company in a position to offer this type of scheme. Their offer was to install cavity wall insulation and/or loft insulation through a British Gas appointed contractor, at a cost to the resident of £199 for each measure. A £50 discount would then be applied to the residents Council Tax bill, for each measure.

The offer from British Gas was advertised on North Ayrshire Council’s website and through Council Tax mailings.

However, in parallel, North Ayrshire Council was working in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust, and the charity Solas Scotland, to offer free or reduced loft and cavity wall insulation to North Ayrshire residents. This project was delivered through the Scottish Government’s Energy Assistance Package (EAP), with the support of the COSLA Local Energy Saving Scheme (LESS) model.

As a result of this partnership, and similar schemes, the insulation measures offered were a more attractive option than those offered under the Council Tax discount scheme. The British Gas offer was not taken up by any North Ayrshire resident. We understand that this was a similar situation throughout Scottish Local Authorities, with British Gas removing their offer at the end of 2012.

In terms of a Non-Domestic Rates discount scheme, there are currently no such schemes operational within North Ayrshire. Our understanding is that the Scottish Government has not yet brought in any regulations in relation to provision for different non-domestic rates in relation to greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to Section 67 of the above Act.