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Post From Thursday 17 February 2011

MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2011

Fabian Hamilton (Leeds North East) : To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what assessment he has made of the merits of implementing a cap on the amount by which gas and electricity companies can increase prices to the consumer in any given period. (42001)

Charles Hendry

Effective competition is the key to ensuring that prices are as low as possible for consumers. Ofgem, the market regulator, monitors the market closely to ensure consumers pay a fair price for their energy and British residential customers pay some of the lowest prices for gas and electricity in the EU. Following the recent announcement of price increases by some energy suppliers, Ofgem has launched a review of the retail energy market to see if further action is needed to protect customers, which we welcome. Ofgem plans to complete the review by March 2011.