

Code of Practice for Non-Domestic Third Party Intermediaries

This Code of Practice applies to Third Party Intermediaries operating in the non-domestic gas and electricity supply market in Great Britain.

For the purposes of this Code of Practice, a Third Party Intermediary (**TPI**) means a third party organisation or individual that, either on its own or through arrangements with other organisations or individuals, provides information and/or advice to a non-domestic consumer (**Customer**) about the licensee's Charges and/or other terms and conditions and whose payment or other consideration for doing so is made or processed by the licensee (**Supplier**)

This Code of Practice currently applies on a voluntary basis. TPIs are not compelled by law to comply with this Code of Practice, but it is hoped that TPIs will choose to comply with this Code of Practice. Customers and Suppliers who deal with TPIs may also choose to deal only with TPIs who agree to comply with this Code of Practice.

This Code of Practice has been produced and is administered by RECCo. RECCo is the independent body which administers the Retail Energy Code – the Ofgem regulated energy code which governs the retail aspects of the gas and electricity markets in Great Britain. If you have any queries concerning this Code of Practice, please contact us at recco_strategy@retailenergycode.co.uk

Principle 1: Transparency & Accuracy

The purpose of this principle is to empower Customers to make informed purchasing decisions.

- A. The TPI must provide clarity from the outset of its dealings with the Customer that the TPI is an intermediary, and must not misrepresent itself as anything other than a TPI in its communications.
- B. The TPI must provide clarity to the Customer regarding how the TPI is remunerated - making sure the Customer is aware how the TPI is being paid for the work it does. This must be prior to the Customer entering into a contract with the TPI, and must be clearly laid out in the TPI's terms and conditions.
- C. The TPI must take all reasonable steps to ensure the maintenance accurate Customer data and provide such data as required by the Supplier.
- D. The TPI must take all reasonable steps to relevant establish accurate energy consumption data (known in the industry as Estimated Annual Consumption ('EAC') and/or Annual Quantity ('AQ') data), and must maintain records of how EAC and/or AQ data was calculated.
- E. The TPI must ensure that the Customer is aware of the annual energy consumption figures used by the TPI when tendering for energy supply prices.
- F. The TPI must ensure that it does not misrepresent the Supplier contract type and/or contract price that is presented to the Customer.

- G. The TPI must ensure that where reference is made to information relating to Suppliers, legislation and/or industry news/events, that these are relevant to the contract being proposed to the Customer, and that they are accurate and traceable to trusted sources.
- H. When the Customer enters into an energy supply contract, the TPI must ensure that the Customer is aware that it is entering into a legally binding contract.

Principle 2: Transparent TPI Pricing & Product Information

The purpose of this principle is to enable Customers to effectively compare TPIs, to facilitate competition in the TPI market, and to ensure that Customers have full visibility of the TPI's commission.

- A. In order for the Customer to understand the likely amount of commission which the TPI will receive, the TPI must prominently display in its Customer-facing documentation the calculation which will be used to determine the TPI's commission.
- B. Prior to the Customer entering into a contract with the Supplier, the TPI must clearly state to the Customer the commission which the TPI will receive in respect of the contract (expressed as either the fixed service fee, the kWh uplift, the standing charge uplift or, where appropriate, a combination of all three) and how that commission will be calculated. This commission figure must include any commission payable by the Customer. An illustrative example is set out in Annex 1.
- C. The TPI must not mislead Customers regarding the number of the Suppliers which the TPI approached for quotes. The TPI must provide the Customer with clarity and visibility of the number of the Suppliers approached for quotes, and the prices quoted by those who met the Customer's requirements.
- D. The TPI must clearly state - in writing, in plain English, and as part of the TPI's contract with the Customer - the products and services which the TPI will provide to the Customer.

Principle 3: Treating Customers Fairly

The purpose of this principle is to ensure that TPIs treat Customers fairly, so as to increase Customer engagement and trust in the market.

- A. The TPI must ensure that the energy supply contract which it recommends to a Customer is suitable for that Customer based on the information the Customer has provided.
- B. The TPI must ensure that the material terms of energy supply contracts are clearly and fairly explained to the Customer, including an accurate description of the charges (including of separate commodity and non-commodity charges, if applicable) in line with the information and documentation provided by Suppliers.
- C. The TPI must only represent to a Supplier that there has been a change of occupier (known in the industry as a Change of Tenancy) if there is reasonable evidence that the Customer is a new occupier of the premises.

- D. The TPI must take all steps to ensure that Customers are treated fairly, and that they are not subject to high pressure selling when making decisions.
- E. The TPI must obtain from the Customer, and provide to the Supplier, a letter of authority which is consistent with the standard letter of authority included as Annex 2 to this Code of Practice.
- F. Where a letter of authority is revoked by a Customer the TPI must not seek to rely on the letter of authority going forwards.
- G. The TPI must bring to the Customer's notice, the fact that contract termination fees may be applicable under any energy supply contracts.

Principle 4: Clear Route for Dispute Resolution

The purpose of this principle is to ensure that Customers have a clear route to address TPI complaints.

- A. The TPI must ensure that there is a complaints procedure in place, which is available via the TPI's website and in hardcopy if requested. The complaints procedure must align with the minimum requirements set out by the Energy Ombudsman (found [here](#))
- B. The TPI must ensure that the complaints procedure is maintained and kept up to date, using a version controlled published document. Copies of previous versions must be made available if requested.
- C. For Customers who qualify as Micro Business Consumers (as defined in Ofgem's energy supply licences), the TPI must ensure that they are signed-up to a qualifying Alternative Dispute Resolution scheme, and that details of the scheme and the TPI's membership number are included in the TPI's key customer-facing documentation.
- D. The TPI must ensure that Customers are able to register complaints by phone, by post, and via email or other electronic format.
- E. The TPI must ensure complaints are logged electronically with the pertinent information captured regarding complaint date and reason, and then updated at regular intervals with action taken / outcome. The log for each complaint must be held for at least 6 years following the date on which it was raised.
- F. The TPI must clearly signpost the Customer to the services of the Energy Ombudsman, as well as provide clear signposts to other sources of independent specifically the Citizens Advice Bureau as a minimum.

Principle 5: Appropriate Data Protection Arrangements

The purpose of this principle is to provide assurance to the Customer that the regulatory requirements for data protection are met, and to promote trust in the market.

- A. The TPI must ensure that it handles Customer data in accordance with the relevant data protection regulations, including the Data Protection Act 2018 (sometimes referred to as GDPR) and the marketing requirements of the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR).
- B. The TPI must register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and pay the data protection fee.
- C. The TPI must have an up-to-date data protection policy which governs its processing of personal data.
- D. The TPI must have access controls which provide for appropriate user access security and control procedures to guard against unauthorised access to personal data and other data.

Principle 6: Training, Governance and Compliance

The purpose of this principle is to ensure that TPIs and their representatives understand the requirements of this Code of Practice and that appropriate compliance monitoring process are in place.

- A. The TPI must ensure that its representatives regularly undertake training in relation to these Code of Practice principles. This training must be provided to all relevant; staff, third parties, agents or representatives, so that they understand and can follow the relevant requirements of this Code of Practice.
- B. The TPI must maintain a detailed training log to track staff and partners trained, including the date of the next refresher training which the individual is due to undertake. An illustrative example is set out in Annex 3.
- C. The TPI is responsible for ensuring that all relevant; staff, third parties, agents or representatives adhere to these principles and compliance requirements. The TPI must retain evidence of compliance with the requirements of this Code of Practice, which may include telephone recordings For the avoidance of doubt in these circumstances the Customer must be made aware that recordings are being made and the purpose for doing so e.g. for compliance purposes).
- D. The TPI must have appropriate compliance monitoring processes in place to check its sales and other activities against the requirements of this Code of Practice.

Annex 1 – Example Commission Calculation

Electricity Supplier Contract Offers			
Supplier Name	Supplier One	Supplier Two	Supplier Three
Contract Start Date	01/03/2023	01/03/2023	01/03/2023
Contract End Date	30/04/2024	30/04/2024	30/04/2024
MPAN	123456789101	123456789101	123456789101
Estimated Annual Consumption (kWh)	126,723	126,723	126,723
Contract Type	Fixed Contract	Fixed Contract	Fixed Contract
Daily Standing Charge (Pence per day)	67p	72p	122p
Day Unit Rate (Pence per kWh)	32.7p		34.7p
Night Unit Rate (Pence per kWh)	21.6p		22.3p
24 Hour Unit Rate (pence per kWh)		33.1P	
KVA Charge			
Commission Included in Unit Rate or Standing Charge	Unit Rate	Unit Rate	Unit Rate
Commission per kWh (included in rates above)	1.1p	1.1p	1.1p

Gas Supplier Contract Offers			
Supplier Name	Supplier One	Supplier Two	Supplier Three
Contract Start Date	01/03/2023	01/03/2023	01/03/2023
Contract End Date	30/04/2024	30/04/2024	30/04/2024
MPRN	2345678901	2345678901	23456789101
Estimated Annual Consumption (kWh)	45,999	45,999	45,999
Contract Type	Fixed Contract	Fixed Contract	Fixed Contract
Daily Standing Charge (Pence per day)	50p	39p	62p
Unit Rate (pence per kWh)	9.1p	9.7p	8.3p
Commission Included in Unit Rate or Standing Charge	Unit Rate	Unit Rate	Unit Rate
Commission per kWh (included in rates above)	0.8p	0.8p	0.8p

Annex 2 - Minimum requirements for a Letter of Authority

The Letter of Authority must include the minimum information requirements, as set out below, to meet the standards of this Code of Practice.

1. You must provide a list of actions that you will undertake on behalf of the customer ensuring that the customer is aware they can delete any requirement they deem unsuitable.
2. Where you delegate part of the switching responsibility to a third party, such as an aggregator or sub-broker, you must include relevant details.
3. You must state the duration of the letter of authority, and that the customer is able to end that authority at any time.
4. Where the customer has been introduced via a Sub Broker or partner, you must make clear there has been an introduction and add the name of that Sub-broker.
5. You must point the customer to your T&Cs and Complaints policy.
6. You must include a statement that the customer understands that a commission may be payable and how that commission will be recovered.

Example Letter of Authority

Customer's name (if a Sole Trader):	
Company Name:	
Customer's registration number:	
Customer's registered address:	
Customer's contact email address	
Customer's contact telephone number:	

Dear Energy Supplier

We, the above-named Customer, hereby confirm that we have appointed [*TPI NAME*] (the **TPI**) to act on our behalf in relation to our gas and/or electricity supply contracts. We hereby authorise the TPI to undertake the following actions on our behalf: *[Delete those which are not applicable. Note in particular the final bullet which authorises the TPI to enter into supply contracts on a customer's behalf.]*

- obtain confirmation of energy supply contract end dates;
- obtain confirmation of annual energy consumption (EAC/AQ), and provide updated values;
- obtain half-hourly or daily metering data;
- obtain meter details;
- obtain tariff details;
- obtain copy invoices;
- serve termination notices under gas and/or electricity supply contracts;
- request quotes for new gas and/or electricity supply contracts;
- notify a change of occupier at our premises;
- receive and respond to supply transfer objections (including account balance information where relevant);
- sign and enter into new gas and/or electricity supply contracts or add premises to existing supply contracts.

[TO BE INCLUDED IF THERE IS A SUB-BROKER OR AGGREGATOR: We accept that the TPI may delegate some or all of its responsibilities to [SUB-TPI or AGGREGATOR NAME], who shall also be authorised to undertake the above activities on our behalf.]

This letter of authority will automatically end, and will need to be refreshed, after 12 months; unless we enter into a gas and/or electricity supply contract with you via the TPI during such 12-month period, in which case this letter of authority will automatically apply until the end of that supply contract (unless we notify you in writing that it has been revoked). We can revoke this letter of authority at any time by giving you written notice of revocation.

Commission: We acknowledge that the Broker may be paid a commission by you, and we understand that you will recover the cost of any such commission via the charges we pay under our gas and/or electricity supply contract (as further described in our contract with the TPI).

Customer's authorised signatory:	
Print name:	
Position in company:	
Date:	

Annex 3 – Example Training Log

(COMPANY NAME)

Matrix key	
Today's date:	03/07/2023
	Not assigned
	Complete and in-date
	Due soon (less than 3 months away)
	Overdue

Staff member	Inducti on	Transparency and Accuracy	Price and Product Renewal	Treating Customers Fairly	Dispute Resolution	Data Protection Renewal	Secret Key Protection	Other Renewal	Other Renewal
		Renewal Date	Date	Renewal Date	Renewal Date	Date	Renewal Date	Date	Date
Colleague 1	Yes	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	04/01/2024	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	01/01/2024
Manager									
Colleague 2	Yes	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	04/01/2024	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	01/01/2024
Administrator									
Colleague 3	Yes	03/09/2023	03/09/2023	03/09/2023	03/09/2023	03/09/2023	03/09/2023	03/09/2023	03/09/2023
Sales Consultant									
Broker Partner 1	Yes	29/07/2022	01/08/2021	01/09/2021	01/10/2021	01/11/2021	01/12/2021	01/01/2022	01/02/2022
Sub Broker									
Employee name <Insert employee role>	Yes								