

Notice

Dear Residents of Sark,

I am writing to let you know that the maximum unit electricity price from 1st December until 19th December 2021 will be 56 p/kWh.

On Thursday, I received SEL's consumption figures for September and October. These demonstrated that Island Wide unit sales to 31st October were ~1,173,000 kWh, 2.7% higher than assumed in the Variation. However, fuel costs have risen by 63% since December 2020 when I set the Variation and SEL's receipts from the minimum usage charge have been 28% lower than assumed.

Last month I informed residents that the Price Control Order (PCO) expires on 19th December 2021. I may only set another if I have first determined that the prices charged by SEL are not fair and reasonable. SEL has not shared with me the future tariff, nor, for that matter, has it informed me of its plans for next year. I must, therefore, wait for SEL to announce its tariffs before I investigate whether another Price Control Order is required.

I am aware of a letter Mr Witney-Price sent to Mr Guille on 18th November 2021 in which he claimed that I had set the Variation to the PCO so that SEL would be loss making in 2021. This claim is not correct. I have provided details of an error I found in Mr Witney-Price's analysis to Mr Guille and a copy may be found at www.epc.sark.gg. When I set the unit price at 50p/kWh in January, fuel costs were equivalent to ~12 p/kWh. As diesel prices rose, I adjusted the maximum price each month in order to maintain SEL's profits. Mr Witney-Price did not take into account these monthly changes to the electricity price. His complaint that I expected SEL to operate at a loss is demonstrably incorrect.

I regret that I have been unable to visit Sark in recent months and wish you all a joyful and peaceful festive season.

Anthony White Commissioner 27th November 2021

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