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**NEWS RELEASE  
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### **Further Energy Price Rises Hit Electric Heating Users Most**

Energy company E.ON has announced (7 March) that it is increasing its standard electricity prices by an average of 13.8 per cent from 26 April. This increase, along with similar increases by some other energy companies, will hit households that rely on electric heating particularly hard.

Already ScottishPower has said it is increasing its standard electricity prices by an average of 10.8 per cent, EDF has increased its electricity prices by 8.4 per cent, and npower will raise its standard electricity prices by 15 per cent. Meanwhile gas price increases are around the 4.5 per cent mark.

According to the Scottish Government's figures, 12 per cent [see Table 5] of Scottish households (284,000) rely on electricity as their main source of heating. Many of these households are likely to be off the gas grid and so will have a more limited choice of heating types. Often properties in rural areas have no access to mains gas. Figures [see Table 4] show that 16 per cent of Scottish households are off the gas grid and of these, 63 per cent are in rural areas.

Norman Kerr, Director of the national fuel poverty charity Energy Action Scotland said: "For people struggling to make ends meet, any prices rises for basic necessities such as domestic energy will hurt. However, the increases we are seeing now of around 11 to 15 per cent for electricity will really bite.

"The price increases in electricity for those households reliant on electric heating will have a big impact. This gives a strong message to the government that more effort is needed to assist households with limited access to heating or fuel types such as those off the gas grid. Rural areas continue to need particular assistance to reduce levels of fuel poverty and the overall cost of living.

"We would encourage customers to find out from their energy supplier if they could make savings by moving to a different tariff or payment method. In addition, it's worth shopping around to check the best deals available that suit customers' own circumstances."

**-ends-**

#### **For further information contact:**

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#### **Background information:**

1. Energy Action Scotland is the national charity which campaigns to end fuel poverty and works to promote warm, dry homes for all. **Website:** [www.eas.org.uk](http://www.eas.org.uk)
2. There are currently around 748,000 households (30.7 per cent) in fuel poverty in Scotland (source: Scottish House Condition Survey).
3. Fuel poverty is the inability to afford adequate warmth in the home, defined as needing to pay more than 10 per cent of income on energy costs.
4. The main causes of fuel poverty are poor energy efficiency of the home, high domestic fuel prices and low household income.

**Table 5: Primary Heating Fuel, Households (000s) and %, for All Stock and by Sector, 2015**

Primary Heating Fuel	All Stock		Private		Social	
	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%
<b>Mains gas</b>	1,914	79%	1,446	78%	468	79%
<b>Electricity</b>	284	12%	192	10%	92	16%
<b>Oil</b>	158	7%	156	8%	*	*
<b>Communal Heating</b>	25	1%	5	0%	21	3%
<b>Solid mineral fuel</b>	18	1%	16	1%	*	*
<b>LPG bulk or bottled</b>	15	1%	*	*	*	*
<b>Biomass</b>	15	1%	*	*	*	*
<b>Other</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sample size</b>		2,754		2,095		659

\* denotes cases where attributes appear too rarely to provide an adequate basis for reporting. See [section 7.1.5](#) for table conventions

**Table 4: Gas Grid Coverage Overall and by Urban/Rural Location, 2015**

Gas Grid Coverage	Location					
			Urban		Rural	
	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%
<b>On Gas Grid</b>	2,038	84%	1,887	93%	150	37%
<b>Off Gas Grid</b>	396	16%	135	7%	261	63%
<b>Total</b>	2,434	100%	2,022	100%	412	100%
<b>Sample size</b>		2,754		2,147		607

Source: [Scottish House Condition Survey: Key Findings 2015](#)