Llais Defnyddwyr Cymru | Consumer Focus Wales

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Consumer Focus news, work and energy price comparison update

Update on our work in May

Welcome to the second Consumer Focus Wales newsletter.

During the past month we have commented on the UK Government's planned roll-out of smart meters, the Assembly Government's drive to cut the number of single-use plastic bags, and announced a new piece of work looking at the impact of post office closures on communities.

Wales lost over 150 post offices from May 2007 onwards as part of the Network Change Programme, with a further 60 being replaced by an outreach service.

New work will examine the impact of post office closures

Ceri Williams, postal expert for Consumer Focus Wales, said: 'The key argument of people trying to preserve their post offices was how it would impact on communities – and particularly how it affected older people. Now, we want to measure just what the impact was and what lessons need to be learned for the future.'

Mr Willliams added that the research, which will be put out to tender shortly, will provide vital information for the future of the Post Office network.

The Consumer Focus Wales board met in Cardiff on May 21 and outlined a range of projects to represent and empower consumers over the next 12 months. More details will follow shortly.

Forthcoming Events:

- **June 30— Joint Consumer Focus Wales, Scotland and GB board meeting.**
- **July 16— Consumer Focus Wales board meeting, venue tbc.**

News from Consumer Focus Wales

Get carried away by drive to re-use plastic bags	Western Mail, May 18
Cut one-trip carrier campaign	BBC, May 18
MEPs urged to fight for consumers (no link)	South Wales Evening Post, May 15
Affordable credit needed to weather recession	Pontypridd Observer, May 14
Consumer Focus group urges mobile users to complain	Daily Post, May 6

Consumer Focus Wales's monthly newsletter now features monthly energy price comparison data.
This month the data compares single fuel standard credit prices over a year for gas and electricity in North and South Wales, for the six major suppliers. The purpose of this example is to show the differences between suppliers and the power of switching.
For more details on how you could switch, click here

Monthly energy price comparison data

£	British Gas	EDF	Npower	E.On	Scottish Power	Swalec
Gas						
North Wales	756	776	768	760	749	735
South Wales	761	776	741	760	719	N/A*
Electricity						
North Wales	383	415	455	425	436	434
South Wales	398	431	482	436	428	469

* Gas not available as single fuel in South Wales area