

14<sup>th</sup> December 2011

## **Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM) State of the Nation Report on fuel poverty – ‘Out in the Cold’**

The Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) inaugural report on fuel poverty published today, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, reveals that the most vulnerable individuals in the UK will pay the highest price to heat their homes this winter.

IGEM’s report, entitled ‘Out in the Cold’ reveals that pre-payment meters, used by the most vulnerable members of society, operate on the highest priced tariffs - making them the most expensive method of fuel payment.

*“The regulatory authorities have failed to address this discriminatory practice”* said IGEM CEO Dr Claire Curtis-Thomas. *“IGEM recommends that a comprehensive review of the energy tariffs available to pre-payment customers be carried out as a matter of urgency.”*

Later today, Claire will be joined in the Jubilee Room off Westminster Hall in the Palace of Westminster, by Barry Sheerman MP for Huddersfield, Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group and Secretary of the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resource Group, to unveil the Institution’s fuel poverty report to an audience of key industry stakeholders, Members of Parliament and Government representatives including Barry Gardiner MP for Brent North, Member of the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee.

IGEM’s call for better value tariffs on pre-payment meters is just one of several recommendations that will be unveiled at the launch. Other Government initiatives to be covered include; Winter Fuel Payments, Warm Front and the Energy Companies Obligation Scheme.

Ends

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **State of the Nation Report on Fuel Poverty**

The Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM) State of the Nation Report on fuel poverty – ‘Out in the Cold’ is launched on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 in the Jubilee Room off Westminster Hall in the Palace of Westminster between 1pm and 3pm.

Speeches commence at 1.30pm and will be delivered by; IGEM Chief Executive Dr Claire Curtis-Thomas CEng CIGEM FIMechE FIET FCGI FRSA (former Member of Parliament 1997 – 2010) and Barry Sheerman MP for Huddersfield, Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group and Secretary of the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resource Group.

#### **Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM)**

IGEM is a learned Institution and Chartered professional body established in 1863 and licensed by the Engineering Council. The Institution provides, through its independent technical panels, definitive process standards which are used throughout the gas sector globally.

For more information contact Gemma Baguley, Marketing Communications Manager for the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) on Telephone: 0844 678 157, Email: [communications@igem.org.uk](mailto:communications@igem.org.uk) Website: [www.igem.org.uk](http://www.igem.org.uk)