



Office of Hon Craig Foss

MP for Tukituki

Minister of Commerce
Minister of Consumer Affairs

Minister of Broadcasting
Associate Minister for ACC

16 APR 2013

Pablo Gomes Ludemir
fyi-request-797-70a1279d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Ludemir

Request for Information under the Official Information Act

I refer to your email dated 21 March 2013, requesting information under the Official Information Act, relating to electricity prices publications. Specifically, you have asked for how the pricing information is captured, how frequently the pricing information is updated and whether there are other ways to get this information.

Consumer New Zealand obtains tariff information for the Powerswitch website directly from the retailers.

Every quarter there is a formal audit of the complete Powerswitch data set to ensure that the tariffs held are current. This includes sending each retailer a report detailing all the locations for which Powerswitch holds tariffs and the date on which those tariffs became active. The retailers then confirm that the tariffs are still the current tariffs for that location and that Powerswitch has tariffs for all locations serviced by the retailer.

The pricing information on Powerswitch is updated on an 'as required' basis. When tariff changes are received from the retailer they are processed by Consumer NZ according to the active date. Every endeavour is made to ensure that all tariff changes are loaded onto the Powerswitch website before they become active for consumers. The limiting factors for this are the timeliness with which notifications are received from retailers and the volume of tariff changes received from retailers at any given time.

There is no public database of electricity prices. Currently the only other sources of pricing information would be the retailer's own websites and other price comparison websites such as Switchme (<http://www.switchme.co.nz>) and YouSelect (<http://www.youselect.co.nz>).

Yours sincerely

Hon Craig Foss
Minister of Consumer Affairs