



# Judiciary of England and Wales

LORD JUSTICE EDIS  
SENIOR PRESIDING JUDGE

## APPLICATIONS FOR WARRANTS FOR PRE-PAYMENT METERS

1. On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 the listing and determination of applications for warrants of entry for the purpose of installing a pre-payment meter was suspended with immediate effect. That direction was made following Ofgem's announcement of a market-wide review into the practice of pre-payment meter installation by energy suppliers.
2. The direction of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 has been kept under regular review in light of the progress of Ofgem's investigation and other developments. On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Ofgem announced that all domestic energy suppliers have signed up to an updated Code of Practice on Involuntary Pre-payment meters. Conditions in the Code have since been incorporated into standard license conditions and all energy suppliers are required to follow them. On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Ofgem announced that three suppliers had been given permission to restart involuntary PPM installations after meeting the regulator's set of conditions. On 21<sup>st</sup> February Ofgem confirmed that a further two suppliers had been given such permission.
3. Following these developments, **the direction of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and the relevant parts of previous guidance issued regarding such applications to magistrates are revoked with immediate effect. The courts may recommence the listing of such applications.** The arrangements for listing these applications going forward are to be agreed with the Senior District Judge (Chief Magistrate).
4. When considering applications from energy suppliers for warrants of entry to install pre-payment meters the court must act compatibly with the Human Rights Act 1998 and in accordance with the statutory scheme in section 2 of the Rights of Entry (Gas and Electricity Boards) Act 1954. Suppliers must satisfy the court that they have complied with the standards set by Ofgem, admission to the property is reasonably required and the requirements of the Electricity and Gas Codes have been met.

**The Right Honourable Lord Justice Edis**  
**Senior Presiding Judge of England and Wales**

**March 2024 (Updated April 2024)**