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VEILED WARNING TO CONSUMERS FROM CENTRICA OVER HOUSEHOLD ENERGY PRICES

Centrica's Interim Management Statement out today warns of the impact higher wholesale energy prices are having on suppliers and hints that consumers could end up seeing further price rises as a result. The IMS points out that: "the forward wholesale prices of gas and power for delivery in winter 2011/12 are currently around 25% higher than prices last winter, with end-user prices yet to reflect this higher wholesale market price environment."

Ann Robinson, Director of Consumer Policy at uSwitch.com, says: "This is the second of the big six suppliers to talk publicly of the impact higher wholesale prices are having on their business. Clearly they are preparing the ground for a second round of price increases and consumers should definitely see this as a warning shot across the bows. That said, I would urge suppliers to hold fire for as long as they can. The price of oil has now fallen and the pressure suppliers are feeling could yet ease – given this I would urge them to keep a steady finger on the trigger and to protect consumers for as long as possible. It would be a shame for households to feel the pain of another round of price hikes if it later turns out to have been unnecessary."

For more information visit www.uSwitch.com or call 0800 093 06 07

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Notes to editors:

1. Centrica's Interim Management Statement:
<http://www.centrica.com/index.asp?pageid=39&newsid=2192&rssfeed=corporatenews>

About us

uSwitch.com is a free, impartial, online and telephone-based comparison and switching service, helping consumers compare prices on gas, electricity, water, heating cover, home telephone, broadband, digital television, mobile phones and personal finance products including mortgages, credit cards, current accounts and insurance. In 2010 uSwitch.com celebrated ten years of saving customers money.

uSwitch.com is the first comparison website to achieve the Plain English Campaign's Internet Crystal Mark, which is recognised as a standard that a website has clear language, is accessible and easy to use, and has been tested on a sample of its users.

uSwitch.com is dedicated to helping consumers save money whether they have internet access or not. It offers a dedicated call centre, manned by uSwitch customer service representatives, as well as a freepost 'Send us your bill' service, whereby customers can post their latest energy bills with their telephone number to FREEPOST USWITCH, to get a free call back from a dedicated customer services representative. The service is also available via fax, email and post. Consumers should fax 0203 214 8417, email CustomerServices@uswitch.com or write to Customer Services, uSwitch.com, Centro 3, 19 Mandela Street, London, NW1 0DU with their postcode and usage details.

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