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# **EDF Energy has become the final firm from the "Big Six" UK providers to hike its prices**

Having held off for longer than its major rivals - British Gas, Scottish and Southern Energy, Scottish Power, npower and E.ON - EDF Energy has finally delivered the news that consumers may have been dreading.

Electricity bills will increase by 4.5 per cent, while gas rates will go up by 15.4 per cent.

Bosses at the firm have insisted the rise is lower than those recently made by its competitors and that its investment in low carbon nuclear power was the reason behind the company's ability to delay price increases.

"We have absorbed rising wholesale energy, network and other costs as long as possible but must reluctantly now pass some of these through to consumers," commented chief executive Vincent de Rivaz.

Consumer Focus chief executive Mike O'Connor has welcomed the fact that EDF Energy's rises are lower than expected, but still insisted many customers will face a tough winter due to the hikes.

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