

Joint Statement from the four Trade Unions

E.ON has today announced that it plans to make significant job cuts (approx. 700) following on from the merger of N-power to E.ON over the next two years.

The proposals mainly relate to the Res and SME business, where the introduction of a new Customer Service IT platform sees proposed reductions of approximately 675 roles by the time the migration of customers to the new platform is completed in 2022.

Additionally, combining the E.ON and N-power Industrial and Commercial (I & C) businesses, sees a proposed reduction of c 30 – 40 roles early in 2021, with further reductions likely to be proposed in 2021 as work on combining the businesses continues.

While the expectations of a job loss programme have been in place from the merger and migration of the business, this is devastating news at any time of the year and during a pandemic could not have been worse.

The joint trade unions are seeking more detail on the proposals to examine the business case and the impact on roles that members work in as well as engaging in joint consultation across the business. We will be pressing for clarity on selection criteria and seeking meaningful commitments to avoid compulsory redundancies while using the existing enhanced selective voluntary severance (SVS) packages that have in part enabled significant changes in the past.

This news will be devastating to members who have worked tirelessly for their customers, colleagues and the business. It reflects in no small part concerns expressed by the joint unions to Ofgem about the wider consequences of significant pressures in the energy retail sector, including for jobs and for investor confidence. The unsustainable and volatile position of the retail market, which overlooks the wider role played by large suppliers in supporting in-house adaptations, will undoubtedly impede the ability to reach climate reduction targets or support a Green Recovery.



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On behalf of the RUUK forum Nigel Millership, Chairman.