Power NI in dual fuel plan

Suppliers need to offer something different and perhaps this could be the start of that competition.

The greater Belfast area is fully open to competition with competition in the so-called Ten Towns area - which includes Antrim, Coleraine and Craigavon - restricted to large energy users.

A spokeswoman for Power NI stated that applying for a licence was only the “first step” and that the company currently had “no plans” to launch a service.

“Power NI has made an application to the Utility Regulator for a gas supply licence,” she said.

“This brings Power NI into line with normal industry practice with most energy companies holding licences for both electricity and gas.

“Obtaining a gas licence is the first of many steps required to supply gas to customers. Power NI will continually review the market opportunity and seek feedback from customers before making any decision to enter the market.”
Dublin Road going Japanese

The green light has been given for a new luxury apartment complex on Belfast's Dublin Road. Developers say the £4.4 million project will bring London and Tokyo style living to the city. The nine-story Regent's Gate building will house 58 one and two bedroom apartments ranging from 400 to 600 sq ft.

Developers The Richland Group hope work can get under way next January with a view to completing in summer 2016. It said more than 200 jobs would be supported during the construction phase with more than 20 long-term commercial jobs when the complex – which includes two ground floor cafes – is up and running.

It is the first major project in the north by Richland Group which is headed by Tyrone native Gary McCausland, pictured. He said it was a “ground-breaking” scheme which was “based on a Tokyo/London concept that provides high quality, affordable, contemporary accommodation in strong and up and coming locations”.

"As one of the first major privately funded construction projects in the city since the recession, it signals that Belfast is once again open for business and will see the regeneration of a rundown part of the Dublin Road with an iconic building providing quality accommodation and commercial space for people to live in, work in and enjoy.

"In Regent's Gate, we have a building that is good for Belfast, good for the economy and sends the right signals to the business community in that Northern Ireland wants to embrace investment and progress. This is a very positive step forward. "For the Richland Group this is our first move into the Northern Ireland property market and based on our experience thus far we are hoping to invest in many more projects in the future.

The homes will be geared towards young professionals with floor to ceiling height windows, an integrated sound system and speakers in all rooms, TV, wifi and an optional bespoke furniture package. In addition, a free bicycle or one year travel pass will come with each apartment, while there will also be a basement bicycle store with its own lift.

Almost 5,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor will be used to create two high end cafes. The Richland Group was founded in 2001 and focuses on "luxurious and inspirational developments".