



e **The Institution of Engineers in Scotland (IES)** has published a Paper by **Charles Scott**, under the title:
‘Electricity Supply in Great Britain: 1919 to 2023’.

Key Conclusions:

The Government failed to understand, replacing the central system planning function of the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) with the ‘The Market’, was an inappropriate way to manage a complex integrated electricity supply system.

The consequences of the 1990 Privatisation Act took about 10 years to become apparent. The consequences, 30 years on are now dire.

Charles Scott describes the delivery of an “affordable, secure low emission industry” as a **‘trilemma’** and identifies the inevitable negative consequences if the present arrangement continues.

The full text is here: <https://engineers.scot/office/resources/papers/private-elec-26th-june-final.pdf>

High Cost. Consumers are now having to cope with much more expensive electricity as a consequence of privatisation.

Affordable electricity remains an impossible goal unless the Paper’s recommendations are adopted

Decarbonising targets will almost certainly fail to be met.

Privatisation unbundled the industry into small units which facilitated rapid takeover by, chiefly foreign investors, whose focus remains investor dividend rather than the long term strategic needs of the nation.

Security of supply is seriously compromised by a policy which aims to replace most of existing base load with intermittent wind and solar generation resources.

The UK’s indigenous power engineering industries have largely gone and we are now dependent on imports of much of our generation and transmission infrastructure. In effect, innovation and manufacturing, previously the largest part of the industry and the area where market dynamics are appropriate, has been virtually eliminated.

Charles Scott’s solution is the establishment of a **National Energy Authority (NEA)**, as a statutory body with infrastructure investment from the Treasury. A cross party parliamentary committee to make this happen, is an urgent priority. To be effective the NEA must be:

(a), **Independent, but answerable to Parliament** with a remit to carry out a whole system analysis which will deliver a secure supply at lowest costs and meet emission targets.

(b), **Engineering led** and staffed by experienced independent multidisciplinary experts in power engineering, finance, technology, IT, ecology, etc., and not representatives of vested interests.