



switchee



Housing Fuel Poverty Index

Powered by Switchee

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Who is Switchee?

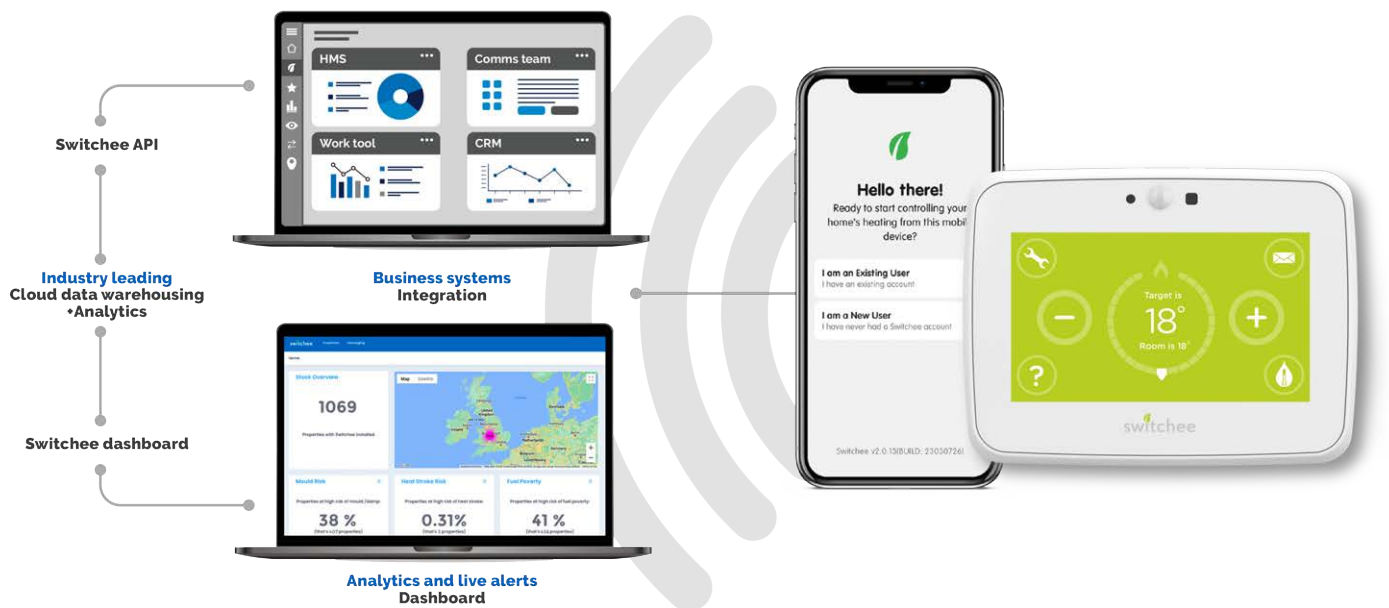
Switchee improves the quality of life for people living in rented homes.

Switchee is the first platform of internet-connected devices in social housing, receiving over 8 billion data points per year, giving real-time actionable insights into property performance.

Our personalised dashboard gives social landlords the insights and tools needed to support residents and proactively manage homes on a case-by-case basis. From identifying properties at risk of condensation, damp or mould to flagging potential fuel poverty, Switchee data enables our customers to optimise energy efficiency, reduce costs, and improve resident satisfaction.

Housing providers can transform resident communications with our in-home display, enabling social landlords to conduct two-way messaging and satisfaction surveys.

The Switchee ecosystem



What does Switchee do?



Cost of living crisis – fuel poverty

Identify and direct support to residents in fuel poverty



Damp & mould

Identify and address the causes of mould growth. Measure interventional impact



Residents engagement & wellbeing

Targeted communication & proactive support



Preventative maintenance

Data-driven, proactive, targeted interventions & prioritised use of resources



Energy efficiency / Net Zero

Retrofit validation



Strategic asset management

Use insights to target resources strategically

What is the Housing Fuel Poverty Index?

The Housing Fuel Poverty Index (powered by Switchee) is an aggregated metric spotlighting fuel poverty prevalence within social housing across the UK. This index offers a comprehensive overview of fuel poverty and highlights the scale of the issue in the sector. The Housing Fuel Poverty Index serves as a benchmark for housing providers to gain a deeper insight into the extent of fuel poverty experienced by the people living in their homes.

By amalgamating real-time data captured by Switchee devices, the Housing Fuel Poverty Index provides a collective understanding of the challenge. It is dynamic and responsive to external factors like fuel price fluctuations and weather variations, ensuring its relevance and impact.

In contrast to Switchee's property-specific fuel poverty risk metric, accessible via the Switchee dashboard, the Housing Fuel Poverty Index adopts a macro-level perspective; it does not consider individual property-level fuel poverty risk metrics.



Why is the Housing Fuel Poverty Index important?

In March, the Office for National Statistics published a report stating that “in England, fuel poverty strategy is focused specifically on prioritising low-income households for energy efficiency support and is distinct from other strategies aimed at reducing income poverty. This is the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator [... however] in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, the fuel poverty strategies do not make this specific distinction.”

By creating one UK metric (which can be broken down by UK region; England, Scotland and Wales) derived from real-time data collected from thousands of social homes, we can better understand the scale of the problem and how to address it.

Working in silos will only get the social housing so far. By joining forces to address this issue and develop solutions, we can fight fuel poverty together.

The Housing Fuel Poverty Index - Headlines

1 in 14

UK social housing homes
are in fuel poverty

178,823

homes at increased
risk of mould

9,314

additional NHS
admissions

£29.7m

cost to the UK economy

36,706

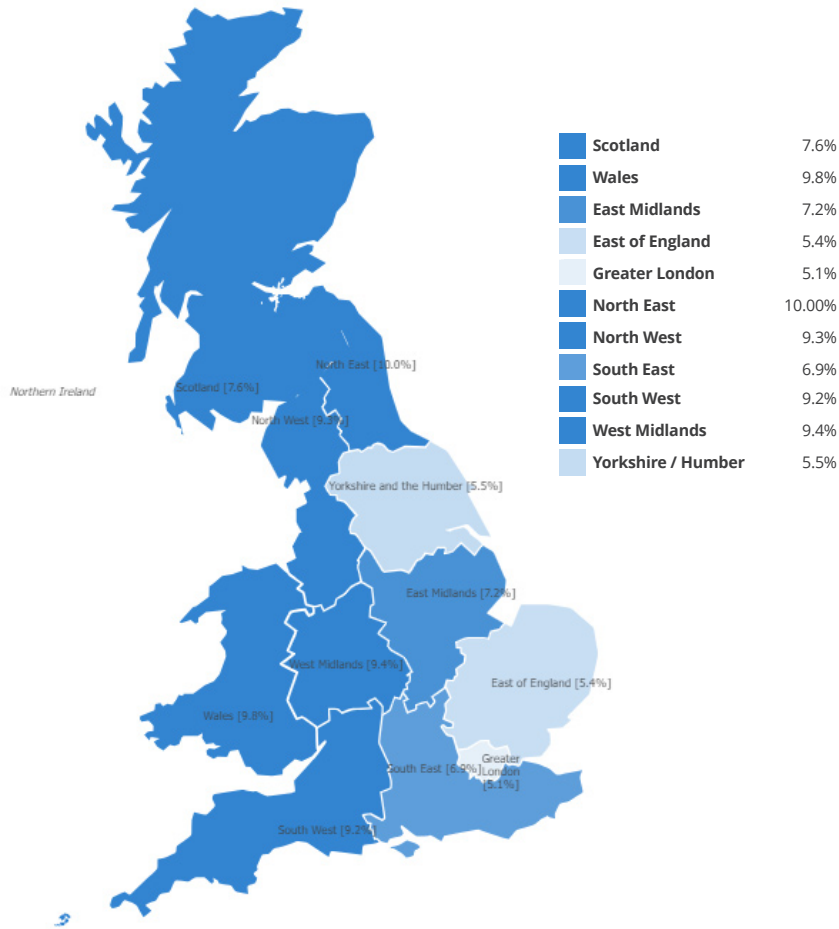
homes annual heating bills
could be covered

*Figures captured for winter 23/24 (01/10/23 - 31/03/24)

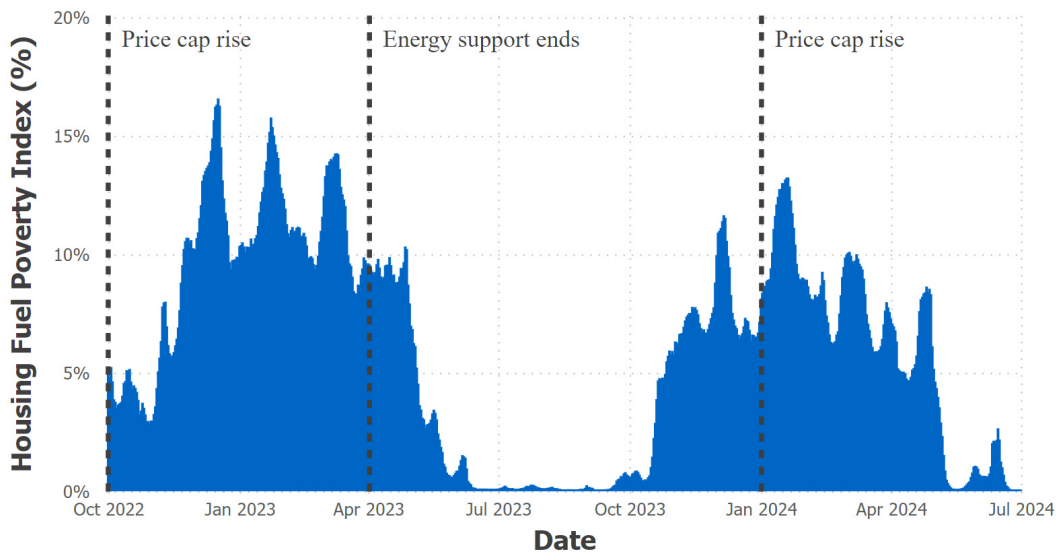
***The annual heating bills base has been reduced from £1500 a year to £810 based on sharp reductions in unit prices from their peak.

UK Housing Fuel Poverty Index

Housing Fuel Poverty Index by Region - a map visual showing the Housing Fuel Poverty Index as a % for each region. The darker shaded areas indicate a higher Housing Fuel Poverty Index. This is the average Housing Fuel Poverty Index % for that region over last winter 23/24 (01/10/23 - 31/03/24)



Fuel Poverty Index by Date - a chart showing Housing Fuel Poverty Index as a % over the last two years. This has been overlaid with the energy price cap changes, and also a trend line to show the general increase in the last two winters.



In the upcoming data section of this pack you will see a series of metrics of measurement used in relation to the Housing Fuel Poverty Index. These are as follows:

- **Fuel Poverty Index:** The average Fuel Poverty Index % for that region/ organisation for winter 23/24 (01/10/23 - 31/03/24)
- **Excess NHS admissions:** the number of extra hospital admissions caused by cold homes in that region/ organisation.
- **Cost of NHS admissions:** the cost to the NHS of those extra hospital admissions.
- **Number of heating bills:** The number of annual heating bills this would fund.
- **Increased mould risk:** The number of extra homes at high risk of condensation, damp and mould due to cold homes.

Region/ Organisation	Stock size	Fuel Poverty Index (%)	Fuel Poverty Index (1 in X)	Excess NHS admissions	Cost of NHS admissions	Number of heating bills	Increased mould risk
UK	5032401	7.40%	14	9314	£29,731,690.63	36706	178823
Scotland	318369	7.57%	13	603	£1,924,434.95	2376	11575
Wales	237395	9.84%	10	584	£1,864,222.14	2302	11212
East Midlands	339305	7.18%	14	609	£1,944,742.61	2401	11697
East of England	449172	5.45%	18	612	£1,952,595.13	2411	11744
Greater London	865213	5.05%	20	1093	£3,488,735.91	4307	20983
North East	276134	10.00%	10	690	£2,203,384.68	2720	13252
North West	610778	9.26%	11	1414	£4,512,101.67	5570	27138
South East	588168	6.89%	15	1013	£3,234,586.86	3993	19455
South West	367112	9.19%	11	843	£2,691,746.45	3323	16190
West Midlands	487220	9.38%	11	1143	£3,648,485.24	4504	21944
Yorkshire / Humber	435535	5.50%	18	599	£1,913,405.35	2362	11508

Winter 23/24 data

Last winter (23/24) we saw the Fuel Poverty Index peak just above 13% in late January, compared to a high of 17% the previous winter. This matched a general trend with average FPI levels falling to 1 in 14 homes (7.4%) last winter (avg. from 1st Oct to end March inclusive). This trend is perhaps not surprising given the sharp falls in the energy price cap ahead of October 2023, along with a slightly milder winter.

However it is not all good news as Fuel Poverty levels are still significantly higher than two winters previously (21/22). This is partly as a result of large rises in the levels of consumer energy debt that exist in the UK as a result of prolonged high energy prices. Data from Ofgem (<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/debt-and-arrears-indicators>) shows that the total consumer debt and arrears has jumped up to £3.3bn - almost double levels seen prior to the first big price rise in April 2022.

Resources

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