

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

22 September 2020

Dear Mike

I refer to my letter of 8 June, regarding the Welsh Government's response to the recommendations included in your committee's report tabled on 24 April on fuel poverty in Wales.

Recommendation 9 of the report requested the Welsh Government to report back to the committee on the number of properties improved and the total spend through Arbed 3 for the second year of the three year programme. The committee also required information regarding the action I intend to take in the event figures on improvements and spend suggest Arbed 3 is continuing to underperform. In my response to this recommendation, I explained the management arrangements introduced when the Arbed contract was awarded in 2018, have enabled the Welsh Government to work closely with Arbed Am Byth representatives to ensure levels of activity are delivered in line with agreed forecasts.

I am pleased, therefore, to be able to report in 2019/20, the second year of the Arbed 3 scheme, combined Welsh Government and European investment of £18.1m improved 1,945 households with home energy efficiency measures. They have been delivered across 19 separate schemes in ten Local Authority areas. Bills payers will save an average estimated £289 on their annual energy bills as a direct result of these measures being installed. I have attached a copy of the full report for both Arbed and Nest schemes for the 2019/20 period for your information.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The committee will appreciate, however, delivery in year three of this current scheme will be challenging because of issues outside our control. The physical and social isolation measures necessary to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic will likely have an effect on scheme delivery in 2020/21. The Welsh Government is working closely with Arbed Am Byth to assess the full impact the pandemic will have on our delivery programme for this year. I will be happy to write again when the result of this assessment is known.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Lesley Griffiths'.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Annex

[Arbed Annual Report 2019-2020](#)

(15 pages)

[Nest Annual Report 2019-2020](#)

(20 pages)