

Lesley Griffiths AM
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Julie James
Minister for Housing and Local Government

14 February 2020

Dear Lesley and Julie,

Thank you for attending yesterday's Climate Change, Energy and Rural Affairs Committee meeting to give evidence to inform our inquiry into fuel poverty.

During the meeting, you agreed to provide a written response to questions that were not reached during the session due to time constraints:

Private Rented Sector

1. What are your views on the suggestion from stakeholders that MEES for the private rented sector should be increased from EPC Band E to EPC Band C (or above)?
2. Other than MEES and the Warm Homes Programme, what arrangements are in place to encourage and/or incentivise private landlords to improve energy efficiency of their properties?

The Committee would also welcome further information and/or clarification from you on the following:

Monitoring and evaluation of the 2010 Strategy

3. The 2010 Strategy set out the Welsh Government's intention to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the strategy. Was this taken forward?

Rural areas

4. What is the Welsh Government doing to reduce reliance on expensive fossil fuels, such as oil, in rural areas? How do you support households that cannot access a mains gas supply to be able to access alternative affordable heating options?

Spending caps



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA

✉ SeneddNHAMG@cynulliad.cymru

☎ 0300 200 6565

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA

✉ SeneddCCERA@assembly.wales

☎ 0300 200 6565

5. Can you clarify whether and how spending on energy efficiency improvements for a household under Nest and Arbed could exceed the agreed spending caps? Are you aware of any cases where projects or households have not been able to proceed because the caps have been exceeded?

Decarbonisation

6. The majority of interventions under Nest are boiler replacements. Are you concerned about the compatibility of this with your decarbonisation ambitions?

In-house advisory service

7. Can you provide further information on the in-house advisory service available through Nest, including the extent to which this service is available and used?

You also agreed to provide further details on:

- Projects involved in using smart purchase of energy, which are being undertaken through the Innovative Housing Programme;
- A list of exemptions from the prohibition on private landlords letting properties with an EPC Band F or G rating.
- The number of properties in the private rented sector in Wales that will not be able to be let under The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 after 1 April 2020.
- Local authorities that are combining grants to cover the cost of enabling works so that energy efficiency measures can be installed in households, and when lessons learned from this approach will be available.

I should be grateful if you would respond as soon as possible, and by **Friday 21 February** at the latest.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hedges AM

Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



