



Committee on Fuel Poverty

cfp@beis.gov.uk

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 November 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Committee on Fuel Poverty, may I congratulate you on becoming the new Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister.

You will be aware that the Committee wrote to you on 2 September, when you were contesting your party's leadership. A copy of the letter is attached for reference.

We appreciate that you have many live issues to manage, not least the current economic situation and forthcoming financial statement.

The Committee notes that the Energy Bills Support Scheme and the Cost of Living Support Package you introduced, later supplemented by the Energy Price Guarantee (EPG), were very substantial commitments to offset the unprecedented energy price increases.

However, since our letter of 2 September, the Government has announced its intention to review the EPG from April 2023. If the intention is to reduce the overall cost of the packages going forward, the Committee supports doing so by better targeting. The Committee would be happy to advise, in the interests of preventing an increase in fuel poverty.

I will not reiterate the Committee's approach outlined in our earlier letter, save to say that, amid some formidable and difficult choices to be made, we believe that any retreat from tackling energy efficiency would be a false economy and undermine other major goals of your administration.

Improving the energy efficiency of the nation's housing stock, targeting the least energy efficient homes first, as recommended in the Government's Sustainable Warmth Strategy, would:

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CFP is an advisory body, sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

- Target support to vulnerable households.
- Deliver financial savings for those households year on year.
- Reduce overall demand for energy, improving energy security.
- Create jobs and manufacturing supply chains across the country.
- Contribute to levelling up goals.
- Reduce emissions, contributing to the nation's climate goals of net zero.

Therefore, the Committee is of the view that increased investment in energy efficiency stands apart from many calls on the Government finances.

We would also reiterate our concern that the necessary steps are taken to ensure customers are treated fairly by suppliers, especially for those with greatest vulnerability.

As always, the Committee is happy to meet to discuss or advise as requested.

Yours sincerely,



RT Hon Caroline Flint

Chair – Committee on Fuel Poverty

Members: Liz Bisset; Anuradha Singh; Belinda Littleton, Anthony Pygram and Gordon McGregor.

Enclosure: CFP Letter to Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP 2 Sept 2022

CC: Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Lord Callanan
Graham Stuart MP