

ECO Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Date	10:30-12:30 on Friday 30th January (Rooms G22_A&B, Nobel House – DEFRA).
Next meeting	TBC

1. Actions from last meeting

There was just one action from the previous meeting (held on 28/11/14).

- The group would discuss frequency of meetings going forwards.

2. SWI installation guidance

Quality and standards update (Hunter Danskin, DECC)

- Working group established to address issues of avoiding unintended moisture problems and of poor quality installation.
- DECC science team is leading on producing appropriate guidance on solid wall insulation. DECC accepted the offer of comments from the steering group prior to publication, with publication planned for summer 2015.
- DECC will consider ways, with input from Steering Group members, of how to incorporate this supplementary guidance into quality framework / regulations.

3. Consumer Focus call for evidence on quality assurance

Call for evidence re-cap (Peter Broad, Citizens Advice Bureau)

- Research Company commissioned to undertake mapping exercise with stakeholders on quality assurance across Energy Efficiency Schemes with initial responses due by 19 January.
- Deadline for online survey extended to 30 January with publication planned for spring 2015.

4. Discussion on ECO interaction with consumers (Peter Broad, Citizens Advice Bureau)

- CAB facilitated a discussion on how well ECO had worked to date including where scope existed to improve, for example, by making ECO more customer-focused.
- Anecdotal feedback received suggested there was no clear offer for the customer with a number of customers unaware of ECOs contribution compared to, for example, GDHIF.
- Linked to this, there has been little analysis conducted on the overall impact of the ECO programme on households.

5. DECC update

BT Openreach (Will Broad)

- Ofgem and Gernserv will soon circulate notes highlighting that, where relevant, agreement must be reached with telecommunications companies, before works are commenced, in order to be compliant with PAS 2030. This is following close working between NIA, BT Openreach, Ofgem, GD Orb and DECC to resolve this issue.

NIA/HHIC Guidance (Will Broad)

- NIA and HHIC have produced draft guidance for installing EWI with boilers, flues, gas pipes etc. It is currently out for comment with key stakeholders and when complete will be referenced in PAS 2030 and incorporated in National Occupational Standards.

Brokerage Operations (Rita Varsani)

- The draft proposals for the brokerage contract went out to participants for their comments, by 4 February. Participants were also asked for their views on timing of publication for the final contract. Whilst DECC is still firmly committed to brokerage it was felt we might wish to reconsider the frequency of auctions, because the market is now more familiar with brokerage.

Devolution (Chris Hunt)

- Following the Smith Commission, the UK Government published its command paper on 22 January 2015.
- As part of the UKG's stakeholder engagement work, the Scotland Office has created an inbox (draftlegislationcomments@scotlandoffice.gsi.gov.uk) where interested parties can comment on the proposals outlined in the command paper.

6. Ofgem update

Guidance (David Fletcher)

- Interim measures are an estimate at present with final determination to be published in September.

HTTCs (David Fletcher)

- HTTC review has now been completed with results circulated to suppliers in December 2014.
- For those measures that fail, suppliers will receive notice of decision to revoke or refuse savings with the final report to be published in February showing the aggregated results.

Excess actions (Hannah Clapham)

- Ofgem are on track to report excess actions in the February compliance report.
- To date, an estimated 15,000 have had their approval refused or revoked by Ofgem totalling 1.5% of notified measures.

Reporting simplification (Hannah Clapham)

- Increased uptake of standardised templates
- 86% stated that the template was easy to use with 60% noting that it saved time

7. Data matching (Sofia Gkiousou, Energy UK)

- Tenders received with evaluation currently being undertaken and a decision expected in a matter of weeks.

8. Date of next meeting/meeting frequency (Richard Mellish, DECC)

- DECC asked the group their views on the purpose, membership and frequency of the steering group meetings. DECC highlighted that their work was becoming more strategic and needed to take into account the forthcoming election. Hence it was reviewing whether the steering group in its current form was the most effective way of keeping stakeholders informed of key policy and delivery issues or to solicit feedback on strategic policy thinking where it was appropriate.
- It was generally agreed by the group that the nature and purpose of the steering group should be reviewed and a number of alternative models for engagement were discussed. DECC suggested that the group would meet less frequently, potentially quarterly and that the next meeting potentially in April be more focused on discussion to inform DECCs thinking on future policy proposals.

9. AOB

- Boiler warranties (Stephen Millward, Scottish and Southern Energy): question was raised over which boiler warranties meet ECO 2 requirements; Ofgem to report back in due course.

Actions

Actions	Owner	Deadline	Status
Circulate quality and standards guidance document to steering group members for comment, with update to be provided at the next SG.	DECC (Will Broad)	April	In progress
DECC invited steering group members to provide suggestions for how to improve quality and standards across energy efficiency programmes.	DECC	April	In progress
DECC to request feedback from suppliers about ESAS referrals and reasons for customer drop-out. DECC to provide stats at next steering group to assist wider understanding of the ECO customer journey.	DECC	April	In progress
DECC to review amendments to the brokerage contract and publication date and report back to the SG.	DECC	April	In progress
EUK to report back to SG on outcome of data matching tender at next meeting.	Energy UK	April	In progress
DECC to consider options for the steering group to be presented at the next meeting probably in April.	DECC	April	In progress

