DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

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Dear Barry,

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS UNDER THE GREEN DEAL

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for a very informative meeting. I fully understand your concerns and appreciate the points you made concerning reducing the numbers of deaths from CO poisoning and I am keen for the Green Deal to play its part in reducing risks in our homes.

I believe that the best way we can help is by ensuring that installers are made aware of the issues and have the training necessary to take appropriate actions. I have therefore agreed that the new Green Deal installer standard being developed by BSI will include a requirement that all installers must assess the impact of their work on the air tightness of the property and any associated increase in risks of CO poisoning that might occur as a result. If there is any increase, installers will be required to fit a CO monitor. They will also be required to check properties where there is an existing monitor to ensure it is fully working.

I also want to help address your concerns about risks for older and more vulnerable people. The new Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is expected to include an 'affordable warmth' target with a focus on low income vulnerable groups, including the elderly, to ensure they have access to measures to improve their ability to heat their homes affordably – with a focus on new heating systems. It is expected that this will work in parallel with the Green Deal and we would expect to mirror the installer requirements set under Green Deal in the context of ECO.

I hope that by setting a requirement in our installer standards and targeting the most vulnerable through ECO, DECC will make a positive contribution to reducing untimely deaths through CO poisoning.

Yours ever,

[redacted]

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