



Committee on Fuel Poverty

Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) Meeting, 16 January 2020

Committee Members: David Blakemore (Chair), Liz Bisset, Paul Massara, Jenny Saunders, Anu Singh and Lawrence Slade.

BEIS Sponsor and Secretariat were also present as well as BEIS analysts, Fuel Poverty Strategy Team, and Energy Retail Markets.

Minutes of last meeting and actions

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2019 were approved and [published](#) on the CFP web page.
2. The majority of actions from the last meeting had been completed, and remaining actions are being progressed.

Members' Interests

3. No potential conflicts of interest specific to the meeting's agenda were declared.

Energy Retail Markets and Energy Efficiency policy

4. BEIS officials answered Member's questions around energy efficiency policy, and went on to present the aims of the recent (July 2019, closed on September 2019) consultation on '[Flexible and Responsive Energy Retail Markets](#)'. Following analysis of responses, policy options will be put forward later this year.

Engagement with new Government

5. The CFP agreed to send letters to BEIS and HMT Ministers, acknowledging the funding proposed in the Queen's Speech of £9.2 billion for energy efficiency, and in the Costings Document published alongside the Conservative Manifesto which indicated a £3.8 billion Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and a £2.5 billion Home Upgrade Grant. In the letters CFP will strongly support and recommend approval for funding of these two programmes in the forthcoming March Budget and will also reiterate the CFP's support for implementing the ambitions for household energy efficiency outlined in the Clean Growth Strategy.

Engagement and Comms log

6. CFP discussed and agreed their response to the Citizens Advice [Draft Consumer Work Plan 2020-21](#), which will be sent out by the deadline of 31st January 2020.

Research Project Phase 1: Update on CFP's Commissioned Research

7. Progress on procurement of CFP's commissioned research - *Better use of data and advanced statistics/machine learning in delivering benefits to fuel poor*. BEIS is already developing data-driven tools to better identify fuel poor households but is thinking ahead to how these new targeting tools might be implemented and used in practice.

8. This research study will address how best to overcome problems that arise in terms of implementation using advanced statistics/machine learning data. Phase 1 delivery is due early 2020 offering a selection of examples from countries that best match the regulatory, legal and ethical environments of those in England. From these, 4 to 6 examples will be selected to take forward to Phase 2, when in depth research will be carried out on how these examples handled challenges in delivering benefits using machine learning data.

CFP's 2020 Annual Report

9. Members considered the timing for CFP's 2020 Annual report following on from the Interim Report (Oct 2019), and will be discussing this in more detail at their next meeting following the outcome of their letters to Ministers.

Future Meetings

10. Meetings currently scheduled for 2020 are:

- Thursday 20 February 2020
- Thursday 16 April 2020
- Thursday 11 June 2020
- Thursday 20 August 2020
- Thursday 15 October 2020
- Monday 16 November 2020
- Thursday 10 December 2020

CFP, January 2020