



# Committee on Fuel Poverty

## **Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) virtual meeting: October 15/10/2020**

1. The Chair and all members of the Committee were present: David Blakemore (Chair), Liz Bisset, Paul Massara, Lawrence Slade, Jenny Saunders and Anu Singh. Invited guests in attendance were from MHCLG, PHE and BEIS together with the BEIS Sponsor and CFP Secretariat.

### **Minutes of last meeting**

2. Minutes from last meeting to be re-circulated for confirmation.

### **Action Log**

3. All actions from the last meeting are in progress.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

4. A form will be circulated by the CFP Secretariat for members to add any recent stakeholder engagement.

### **Members Interests**

5. No new interests declared.

### **Private Rented Sector – Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards**

6. The meeting was joined by BEIS and MHCLG Officials.
7. BEIS and MHCLG gave a presentation on the recently published Private Rented Sector Minimum Efficiency Standards consultation and the recent BEIS recent meeting with stakeholders. The presentation covered extending building base minimum energy efficiency standards and a fabric first approach. It also covered targeted financial support on the back of manifesto commitments and market enabling activity measures such as working on the capabilities of the supply chain to meet demand.

### **Discussion on CFP response to PRS MEES Extension Consultation**

8. The committee were encouraged by the proposed PRS Compliance and Exemptions Database.



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9. The committee discussed the positive benefits of the scheme and how it should assist the fuel poor in private rented sector housing.

### **BEIS Policy Update**

10. BEIS provided an update on current and future plans related to fuel poverty, including the planned update to the Fuel Poverty Strategy.
11. BEIS officials gave an update on delivery of the Green Homes Grant. The discussion touched on the number of installers available to work on the scheme and the demand for the scheme from the public.

### **CFP Research Proposal**

12. BEIS provided an update on progress on the committee's proposed Research Project 'Providing affordable low carbon heating for fuel poor households.'

### **CFP Alignment on Key Issues**

13. The committee discussed the need for a just transition to net zero which fully considers bill affordability. They acknowledged that a fabric first approach is a positive shift towards the move to net zero accounting for fuel poor households, but expressed concern about the impact on fuel poor households of a move from using low cost fossil fuels to high cost electricity for heating.
14. The committee discussed the potential for future technologies to have benefits for those on a lower income during the transition to net zero.

### **Covid-19 Health and Fuel Poverty**

15. The meeting was joined by an official from Public Health England who gave an overview of work being done this winter to support people at risk of Covid-19 who are also at adverse risk of harm from living in cold homes.



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## Future meeting with Minister Kwarteng

16. The committee discussed their upcoming Ministerial meeting and considered key topics to include.

## Forward Look

17. A discussion took place with regards to future engagement with stakeholders.

## AOB

18. The Committee agreed to set meeting dates for 2021.

19. Forthcoming CFP meetings scheduled for 2020 are:

- Monday 16 November 2020
- Thursday 10 December 2020