



Committee on Fuel Poverty

Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) virtual meeting: November 16/11/2020

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 Minister Kwasi Kwarteng and his Private Office, BEIS officials, the BEIS Sponsor and CFP Secretariat.

Members Interests

2. No new interests declared.

BEIS Policy Update

3. BEIS provided an update on current and future plans related to fuel poverty.

4. BEIS officials gave an update on the Green Homes Grant around current delivery and future delivery of the scheme.

Preparation for Meeting with Minister

5. The Committee confirmed priority areas to discuss with the Minister.

Meeting with Minister

8. The Committee thanked the Minister for his attendance and noted the progress made on fuel poverty related activity since March when they last met.

9. The discussion focused on the continuity of schemes, how best to build supply chains and the use of data across government. It was reported that Public Health England will include a focus on Fuel Poverty in their annual winter planning work, including a case study of best practice. The Minister was asked to assist the committee in its efforts to join up action across the existing NHS planning and delivery guidance to drive further coordination between addressing fuel poverty and improving the living conditions for those whose health is suffering from living in cold homes. This issue was reported as particularly acute given the annual winter bed pressures, cost of avoidable health presentations, and the pressures of Covid. The Minister asked his officials to work with the committee.



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10. The Minister offered to meet the Committee again once the Heat and Building Strategy has been published. The Committee welcomed this opportunity and looked forward to further discussion in the context of the transition to Net Zero.

Minutes of last meeting

12. Minutes from the August and October meeting were agreed and have been published on the Committee's website.

Action Log

13. Most actions from the last meeting had been completed and the rest were being progressed.

Stakeholder Engagement

14. The Committee discussed recent engagement with external stakeholders.

Discussion on CFP response to PRS MEES Extension Consultation

15. The Committee discussed the need for the PRS Compliance and Exemptions Database to come into action as soon as possible.

16. They also discussed the need to push for the standards to come into effect earlier than 2025 to have an impact on achieving fuel poverty milestones. Members would prepare a formal response to the Consultation Document.

Covid-19 Health and Fuel Poverty

17. Anu Singh gave an update on the NHS landscape and structural changes to departmental architecture and technology.

Forward Look

20. The Committee discussed upcoming priorities and the alignment between programmes and agreed they would return to this topic. They also considered future engagement with stakeholders.



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AOB

21. Forthcoming CFP meetings scheduled are:

- Thursday 10 December 2020
- Wednesday 20 January 2021