



Committee on
Fuel Poverty

cfp@beis.gov.uk

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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28 March 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

The Forthcoming Energy Security Strategy and Fuel Poverty.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Committee on Fuel Poverty ahead of your important statement on the Government's Energy Security Strategy, with the hope that you emphasise the critical role of energy efficiency measures.

The Committee recognises the unprecedented circumstances that have led to an urgent review of the nation's energy security, necessitating new plans to move towards greater self-sufficiency, to offset the worst of the extreme price increases facing energy users and to continue the UK's journey towards Net Zero.

We also welcome the decision to cut VAT to zero on energy saving materials such as solar panels, heat pumps and roof insulation for five years, helping families become more energy efficient.

The Committee recognises that built into the fabric of the Government's energy policy is the longstanding commitment to reduce fuel poverty, which includes significant milestones to mark progress.

Given the uplifting of the energy price cap by £693 from April, and the anticipated further uplift this autumn due to continuing increases in the wholesale price of energy, the Committee does not want to see the Government's steady and continuing progress in reducing fuel poverty, over the past decade, unravelling in these uncertain times.

For that reason, the Committee hopes that in the Energy Security Statement, the Prime Minister will emphasise that a part of the challenge of achieving greater self-sufficiency and greater security for the most hard-pressed consumers, those in fuel poverty, is to maintain and step-up progress on energy efficiency. The ambitions in your 10 Point Plan for Net Zero will only be realised with a commitment to recurrent funding streams and easily accessible retrofit programmes.

We believe that greater priority on domestic energy efficiency programmes:

- is central to lifting more households out of fuel poverty and protecting those vulnerable of succumbing to fuel poverty, and
- is essential to helping the Government achieve its statutory target of getting properties up to Band C by 2030. As we write, over 3 million households in fuel poverty are still living in properties with an energy rating of D or worse.

During times of unstable or rising energy costs, the cheapest energy for all consumers is the energy never used, because their home efficiently retains warmth.

Likewise, the less energy the nation's households need, the easier it will become for Government to guarantee security of supply over the medium and long term.

In meeting the Government's goals, we see energy efficiency programmes, such as ECO4 and beyond, being central to the long-term reduction in carbon emissions; to the achievement of Net Zero; and to the steady reduction in fuel poverty.

Finally, energy efficiency serves the Government's levelling up agenda, with its potential to create new jobs for skilled workers and new supply chains for British companies across every region of the country. We look forward to the continued work of BEIS, DLUHC and their partner agencies in pursuing the retrofitting of Britain's homes.

We wish the Prime Minister well with his energy security strategy in the most challenging period for energy policy for a generation.

Yours sincerely



Rt Hon Caroline Flint

Chair, Committee on Fuel Poverty

Members: Jenny Saunders CBE; Anuradha Singh; Paul Massara.

cc.

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

Lord Callanan