Committee on
Fuel Poverty

Rt Hon Caroline Flint
Chair of the Committee on Fuel Poverty

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

2nd September 2026

Dear Angela,

On behalf of the Committee on Fuel Poverty, I would first like to welcome you back to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as Secretary of State. We look forward to working with you and your ministerial team.

Please find enclosed the Committee's 2026 Annual Report. Since our Summer Update in 2025, we have been pleased to see the publication of several important policy initiatives, notably the Government's new Fuel Poverty Strategy, the Warm Homes Plan, and the guidance for the Private Rented Sector's Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards.

The wide range of new policy affecting fuel poverty is most welcome. In our view, this adds focus and momentum to an area of work that can change the lives of low income and vulnerable households.

The Government's strength of commitment to reducing fuel poverty across England, matched by new resources, and the determination to step up the rate at which homes are upgraded offer the prospect of more rapid progress than in recent years.

However, we are in no doubt that to make significant progress towards the Government's 2030 targets requires extensive engagement with the private rented sector landlords, and a step change in the investment this sector has seen. We further believe that the new EPC standard should be decided urgently. Delay will add to uncertainty, postpone investment decisions and slow delivery, and require tremendous effort in a very short timeframe.

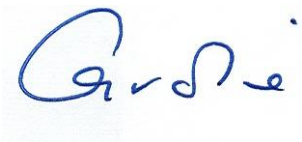
The backcloth to our report is one of annual energy bills still substantially above pre-pandemic levels, and uncertainty about future energy prices. For the households we are focused on, we believe a fabric first approach – making cold homes, substantially warmer – is the first order of defence against unaffordable bills. We also see this as commensurate with a strategy of moving closer to net zero.

The Committee has argued for stronger and more effective involvement of Local Authorities and Regional Mayors in delivering the Warm Homes Plan and Fuel Poverty Strategy. We are pleased that this has been heard. However, to be successful, central decisions need to be made at pace to ensure strong governance, enforcement, competent supply chains and effective engagement of fuel poor households, to meet your targets.

We are in no doubt that the success of this mission to end fuel poverty requires effective cross-Government working and commitment. Reducing fuel poverty has wider benefits that touch several Government departments and contribute to their goals.

We look forward to this thorough overhaul of the strategy to tackle fuel poverty moving from words on paper to meaningful action, for the good of every household still living in cold homes.

Yours faithfully,



Rt Hon Caroline Flint
Chair of the Committee on Fuel Poverty

Enc.