

Scottish Parliament Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Inquiry into energy price rises
Written submission from Bruce Wilson

10 March

Dear Sirs,

In December we had an air source heat pump installed and are to all intents and purposes a fully electrically heated house.

The assistance by way of interest free loan and cash back was a great incentive to convert (as well as doing our bit for the environment of courses) but then comes the kicker. The cost of powering the pump.

We are pensioners on a low fixed income. From 1 January to the end of February we used a little over 2,000KWH which at 28p per KWH is a large bill to pay.

I understand of course that energy prices are spiralling and it will take a finer mind than mine to deal with that but having installed the pump there then seems to be a disconnect in support terms to run the thing.

Looking at electrical vehicles (EV) it appears to me that there are further incentives after acquiring the EV such as special tariffs from energy companies, tax incentives such as little to no road tax, low benefit in kind income tax etc etc.

When it comes to heat pumps the only outcome seems to be increased electricity bills after installation.

We are with Scottish Power and their only special tariff is for EVs. Why is there nothing for heat pumps? There seems to be a real disconnect between the political will to encourage the fitting of heat pumps and the cost of running them thereafter.

Can the government not do something to encourage the energy companies to look at this?

Alternatively as the heat pump adoption helps to clear up pollution in a local area could legislation not be brought forward to apply say a discount to Council Tax or a drop of say one band so that a band E would become a band D, D to E etc etc?

Yours faithfully

Bruce Wilson