



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Duncan Massey MSP
Convener
Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee
economy.committee@parliament.scot

FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY UPDATE

1 October 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to update the Committee on the Scottish Government's approach to revising the Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Under the [Fuel Poverty \(Targets, Definition and Strategy\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#), Scottish Ministers are required to revise the Fuel Poverty Strategy, or publish an explanation as to why they have decided not to do so, within five years of publication of the current strategy. The [current strategy](#) was published in December 2021.

The Scottish Government remains committed to revising the Fuel Poverty Strategy and to meeting our statutory duties under the Act – not least to fulfilling our ambition that, as far as reasonably practicable, no one in Scotland should live in fuel poverty. The revised strategy will provide an updated framework for action across government and with partners to address the drivers of fuel poverty and support progress towards the statutory targets established by the Act.

Alongside, we will develop a Heat in Buildings Delivery Plan setting out the actions needed to accelerate clean heat and energy efficiency, while supporting a fair, affordable and achievable transition across Scotland.

The Delivery Plan will be complemented by the Scottish Government's commitment to introduce a Heat in Buildings Bill in 2026-27, as set out in the [Programme for Government](#).

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Given the role that improving the energy efficiency of homes plays in tackling fuel poverty, I consider it important that our work on Heat in Buildings and the revised Fuel Poverty Strategy is developed in a coherent and complementary way. Alongside meaningful engagement with stakeholders to help shape the revised strategy, this will ensure a coherent and stronger framework for action. I have therefore agreed that further time should be taken to develop the revised strategy before publication.

Officials are engaging with stakeholders to inform the revised strategy and will be complying with the full consultation and parliamentary process set out in the 2019 Act.

Taking time to align with other Scottish Government programmes will ensure that our long-term approach to tackling fuel poverty is consistent, evidence based and focused on the actions within devolved competence that are most likely to deliver progress towards our statutory targets and to improve the outcomes of those living in fuel poverty. This is particularly important in the context of ongoing uncertainty in energy markets.

I will keep the Committee informed as work progresses.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN GETHINS

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