Climate Change Act 2009 – Use of Energy Efficiency Discount Schemes

The scheme required local authorities to find a single provider in the energy efficiency sector and agree discounted pricing available to Council Tax payers who approached our approved provider expressing an interest in either cavity wall or loft insulation. If a Council Tax payer went ahead and had the work carried out on their home by the approved provider, and could evidence this, then they were eligible for a modest Council Tax discount. Due to the volume of free Scottish Government energy efficiency and insulation schemes on offer, there was great difficulty in getting any companies in the sector to engage with us (and become THC’s approved provider for the scheme) as these firms recognised that their participation in this scheme would generate very little business / work for them. Whilst we were ultimately able to secure an agreement with The Mark Group to undertake works, no Council Tax payers ever installed any measures nor claimed for the associated Council Tax discount.

In relation to NDR, the Secretary of State has the power to set the non-domestic rate poundage. While Section 67 of the 2009 Climate Change Act gives the additional power to prescribe the amount of non-domestic rate to those who are energy efficient, we are not aware that the Secretary State has ever exercised this power i.e. introduced a different poundage for energy efficient non-domestic properties.