Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

Letter from West Dunbartonshire on the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009: Use of Energy Efficient Discount Schemes

Climate Change Act 2009 – Use of Energy Efficiency Discount Schemes

Thank you for your email of 29 June 2018, in which you ask a number of questions regarding our implementation of specific provisions contained within the Climate Change (Scotland) 2009 Act.

In 2010, West Dunbartonshire Council introduced a Council Tax energy efficiency discount scheme to encourage improvements to be made to the energy efficiency of a domestic property. The cost of the discount scheme was to be met by British Gas, which was the only utility company in a position to offer the scheme at the time. Residents had to use British Gas to install their Energy Efficiency measures, and in return they would receive a £50 discount on their Council tax for each measure installed.

When the scheme was first advertised, West Dunbartonshire Council did receive a few enquiries, but to date has not awarded any rebates. It is felt this is because it is more cost effective to use other companies to install energy efficiency measures, even after taking account of the Council Tax discount. Further to this, citizens on eligible benefits or over the age of 70 are entitled to free energy efficiency measures in their homes and are therefore not able to receive the discount; in West Dunbartonshire Council, there is a high proportion of citizens fitting these characteristics.

In relation to section 67 of the Act, despite West Dunbartonshire Council continuing to promote this relief, there as to date no qualifying properties which have applied for relief under this scheme in area.