26 March 2019

Dear James,


As you know, the Scottish Government’s Climate Change Plan sets out our ambition to reduce the emissions from Scotland’s buildings to near zero by 2050. Our Energy Efficient Scotland route map outlined our long term strategy to achieve this aim by encouraging energy efficiency and demand reduction in all buildings, as well as promoting the uptake of low carbon heat options and district heating for buildings that do not use mains gas.

As part of the Scottish Government’s wider efforts to meet our commitments under the Climate Change Plan, we are currently reviewing our building energy standards and are considering the next steps to further enhance energy performance of new and existing buildings.

We are pleased to inform you that today both the Energy Efficient Scotland consultation and the Low Carbon Heat Call for Evidence have been published.

The Call for Evidence is focused on decarbonising the heat supply to buildings that do not use gas. More specifically, it explores existing barriers to the uptake of low carbon heat options, the opportunities and challenges for the supply chain, and how to avoid any potential adverse effects on fuel poverty.

This consultation exercise does not outline a Scottish Government policy position; instead, it seeks evidence from partner organisations and the general public to inform future policy development.
We promised to look again at the proposed domestic targets from the route map, and to seek views and gather evidence on whether Energy Efficient Scotland can be accelerated and how the risks of doing so can be overcome.

This Energy Efficient Scotland consultation will:

i. set out the suite of legislation we are beginning to prepare to support the delivery of Energy Efficient Scotland;
ii. look at alternative target dates and seek views on possible impacts;
iii. ask questions on the proposed regulations for the private rented sector;
iv. seek views on the recommendations of the industry-led Short Life Working Group on Quality Assurance; and
v. ask what further support the heat networks sector needs.

The consultations can be found at:

We hope that the Committee finds this information both useful and informative. We would be happy to discuss this with you further if that would be helpful.

We are also copying this letter to the Convener of both the Local Government and Communities Committee and the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee.

Kind regards,

KEVIN STEWART
PAUL WHEELHOUSE