



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change



The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State

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The Rt Hon Fiona Mactaggart MP
House of Commons
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Your ref:

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Dear Fiona,

Thank you for your email dated 11 November, enclosing correspondence from your constituents about improving the energy efficiency in homes.

We are fully committed to tackling fuel poverty in England and making cost effective savings in greenhouse gas emissions as a contribution to climate change commitments and statutory carbon budgets.

A successful approach to keeping homes warmer for less needs to be long-term, stable, coherent, affordable and targeted at those who need it most. We also need to find new approaches to incentivise those who are able to pay for energy efficiency improvements and low carbon heating systems to do so.

The fuel poverty target for 2030 and our climate change goal for 2050 set the context that means we need a transformation in our housing stock. We need ever greater levels of energy efficiency and we need fundamental shifts towards lower carbon heating.

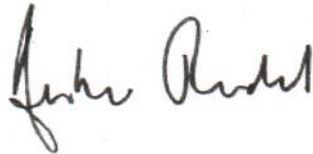
If we are to raise the standard of as many fuel poor homes as reasonably practicable to energy efficiency band C by 2030, we need continued action to help those most in need.

We are doing this already. Alongside Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments, policies such as the Warm Home Discount and Energy Company Obligation deliver vital support to millions of low income and vulnerable homes each year with heating and insulation measures as well as direct reductions in their energy bills.

In addition to this, we have commissioned an independent review led by Peter Bonfield to investigate standards, consumer protection and enforcement of energy efficiency schemes and ensure that the system properly supports and protects consumers.

We are having an impact. Since April 2010, Government policies have supported the insulation of 3.8 million lofts and 2.1 million cavities, and in 2013 we saw a fall in both the absolute number of households in fuel poverty and the fuel poverty "gap" – our measure of the average additional fuel costs facing fuel poor households.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Rudd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

AMBER RUDD