

Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET



23rd October 2019

Dear Minister,

Everybody has the right to a warm, dry home that they can afford to heat and power. Yet, millions live in fuel poverty.

As your fuel poverty advisory group, the Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP), recently highlighted in their Fuel Poverty Interim Report, progress to end this scandal is flat-lining.

The UK Government must seize the opportunity in the upcoming Budget and urgently provide central investment to meet its statutory fuel poverty goals in England.

Without this, 160,000 fuel-poor households could still be living in the least efficient homes by 2020 and the near-term fuel poverty milestone will be missed.

This would leave the poorest households in the coldest homes, still unable to afford that most basic of human rights, to keep warm and meet their energy needs.

Fuel poverty can lead to respiratory, circulatory and mental health problems ([PHE](#)) as well as c.11,400 winter deaths caused by cold homes ([NEA](#)). In children, it can lead to developmental problems and poor performance at school ([NCB](#)). It can lead to people taking days off work ([IPPR](#)).

But it doesn't have to be this way.

Our recent submission to the BEIS Fuel Poverty Strategy Review sets out in detail what the End Fuel Poverty Coalition believes needs to be done. Fuel poverty is caused by low income, high fuel prices, poor energy efficiency, unaffordable housing prices and poor quality private rental housing. These are the issues the Government must address.

A National Energy Efficiency Programme, fully funded support for those in fuel poverty and reform of the private rented sector are the solutions we need and are within our grasp. The Government must also extend and expand energy rebates and advice to manage bills via the Warm Home Discount (WHD) scheme.

The End Fuel Poverty Coalition is a broad coalition of over 20 anti-poverty, environmental and health campaigners, charities, local authorities, trade unions and consumer organisations.

We invite you to meet with the Coalition and discuss with us our proposed solutions to end the scourge of fuel poverty at your earliest convenience. In the meantime, we hope the areas we highlight above will be an urgent focus in this Budget.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Francis,
Co-ordinator, on behalf of the Fuel Poverty Coalition*

cc.

Lisa Pearce, Ministerial Private Secretary

Marc Pooler, SPAD to Secretary of State

Olivia Haslam, Deputy Director, Warm Homes Team

* Members of the Coalition include: 1010, ACRE, Advice 4 Renters, AgeUK, ALEO, BLF, CfPT, Church Poverty Action, CIEH, Citizens Advice, CPAG, CSE, Disability Rights, E3G, EBICO, Energy Saving Trust, Friends of the Earth, Fuel Poverty Action, Generation Rent, Greenpeace, Hackney Foodbank, LB Camden, LB Lewisham, Macmillan, Mayor of London, National Pensioners Convention, National Union of Students, NCB, NEA, NfWI, Oxford Council, Redcar & Cleveland Council, Sheffield Council, UNISON.