

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



13th January 2020

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your re-election and re-appointment as Energy Minister with responsibility for addressing fuel poverty and energy efficiency.

We welcome the assurances you made in Parliament on 7th January that the government is committed to the future of the Energy Company Obligation and introducing additional investment to improve energy efficiency in social housing and via Home Upgrade Grants (HUG), in private tenure fuel poor homes.

These are positive steps to end fuel poverty, but it is crucial that the HUG programme is introduced in the upcoming Budget and that it makes as significant a contribution as possible towards the fuel poverty interim milestones and 2030 target as its primary aim.

Without this urgency, as we set out in our letter to you prior to the election (25th October 2019), progress to end the fuel poverty scandal will continue to flat-line (as the Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) recently highlighted).

Our submission to the BEIS Fuel Poverty Strategy Review also sets out further steps the End Fuel Poverty Coalition believes are vital to urgently address the misery of living in a cold home, alongside the introduction of HUG:

- 1) Extend and expand energy rebates and advice to manage bills via the Warm Home Discount (WHD) scheme.
- 2) Extend the Private Rented Sector regulations to band C by 2030 as set out in the Clean Growth Strategy whilst dramatically driving up local authority enforcementⁱ and ensuring Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are not excluded from improvements.

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.

Finally, 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 the forthcoming Budget.

Yours sincerely,

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

* 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.

ⁱ The Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) have also noted the need to dramatically enhance enforcement, view their research report and CFP's recommendations here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enforcing-regulations-to-enhance-energy-efficiency-in-the-private-rented-sector-research-report-and-cfps-recommendations>.