

Rt Hon Gregory Barker MP

Minister of State
Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
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23 November 2012

Dear Mr Barker

Fuel poverty action in London

The London Assembly Health and Environment Committee held a meeting on fuel poverty and domestic energy efficiency retrofit on 8 November. The meeting heard from officials from the Green Deal and Fuel Poverty teams in your department as well as from the Mayor's adviser and officers, the London Carbon Action Network representing local authorities, and from two of the 'big 6' energy companies, EDF and British Gas.

This meeting discussed future energy efficiency programmes including the Green Deal and ECO, and followed up on the Assembly's earlier report *Plugging the Energy Gap*, which had been sent to your department and to which the then Secretary of State Chris Huhne replied on 2 February.

The meeting discussed the very disappointing level of investment that has been delivered so far by the CERT and CESP schemes to London, as compared to other regions in proportion to the size and type of London's housing stock. The Committee has previously reported on these delivery figures (*Plugging the Energy Gap*, pp25-6, <http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/plugging-gap>); if your Department could provide, with your reply to this letter, annual figures to date (and this year so far if applicable) for loft and cavity wall insulation installations under CERT and CESP by region, that would be very much appreciated.

The Committee would also like to know what lessons you are taking from the experience of CERT and CESP (and other programmes such as the GLA's RE:NEW) for the Green Deal and ECO, and in particular for achieving better take-up and delivery in London. These new programmes provide an excellent opportunity to redress the previous imbalance and to show DECC's commitment to fair delivery in London.

Your officials said that the delivery of the Green Deal and ECO in London would be monitored. Would your department be willing to provide the monitoring information to the Committee when requested, for example, each year?

The Committee, and other London stakeholders, would greatly welcome a clear statement of what action will be taken if the monitoring shows that London is again receiving less than its fair share of investment compared to other regions, and what level of under-delivery would trigger this action.

I very much look forward to receiving your response. It would be helpful if you could copy your reply electronically to the Committee's scrutiny manager Ian Williamson on ian.williamson@london.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Murad Qureshi AM

Chair of the Health and Environment Committee