

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Our ref: **MGLA070920-3365**

Date: 23 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 6 September 2020. Your request has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You asked for;

*1) How much have you invested in gas infrastructure for each year over the last five years?*

*If you could offer some kind of breakdown, like maintenance and repair of piping or installing new systems, that would be great. Failing that, even just an explanation of where this money is going that is invested in gas systems, with no specific breakdown, would be very helpful.*

*2) How many housing developments of 10 or more homes where gas boilers are the installed source of heating have been granted planning permission in each year over the last five years?*

*3) How many housing developments of 10 or more homes where electric heat pumps are the installed source of heating have been granted planning permission in each year over the last five years?*

*4) How much money has been invested by the council in retrofitting old gas boilers in each year over the last five years?*

*4b) How much of this money covered in part 4) went into installing new gas boilers, and how much went into installing electric heat pumps?*

Our response to your request is as follows:

1) The Mayor of London has developed a number of energy efficiency schemes to support homeowners and businesses in achieving high efficiency energy improvements and reduced energy bills in their premises. This includes the Better Boilers programme, a programme aiming to replace inefficient or broken boilers for free and which is now closed for applications, the Warmer Homes programme, which provides free heating, insulation and ventilation

improvements for low income Londoners who own their own homes or rent privately and the Cleaner Heat Cashback scheme, a commercial boiler scrappage scheme which closed as planned on 31 March 2020, offering a financial incentive to small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in London to replace their existing, inefficient boiler with a more efficient system.

All of these programmes were developed on the premise of helping cut energy bills and reduce the environment impact of existing buildings.

From 2016 to 2019 the GLA spent £6,636,000 on domestic energy efficiency programmes for individual households.

2016/2017 - £1,636,000 (from Better Boilers and London Boiler Cashback programmes)

2017/2018 - £800,000 (from Better Boilers and London Boiler Cashback programmes)

2018/2019 - £4,200,000 (from Warmer Homes programme)

It is important to note that the figures for Warmer Homes include spend on other, related energy efficiency measures such as insulation.

Specifically, for the Warmer Homes programme, 55 per cent of properties treated in the programme were fitted with a new gas boiler (in total, 633 new gas boilers were fitted) and 66 per cent were provided with new heating controls, with a total expenditure of £4.2 million. A breakdown of the amount spent only on boilers does not exist.

In addition, the Cleaner Heat Cashback scheme (CHC), administered for the GLA by Energy Saving Trust (EST), provided 30 to 40 per cent of the cost of a new boiler for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). This aimed to boost commercial energy efficiency, improve air quality by reducing harmful Nitrous Oxide (NOx) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. Over the life of the scheme between 2017 and 2020 the following Growth Deal 3 capital funding (government funding as opposed to GLA funds) has been invested following applications from SMEs to upgrade their heating systems:

Mains gas	£172,080
Air source heat pump	£22,250

2) The GLA carries out an annual analysis of the expected energy and carbon related performance of all planning applications referable to the Mayor and granted permission within a calendar year. An application is referable to the Mayor if it meets the criteria set out in the Mayor of London Order (2008). As an example, these criteria include development of 150 residential units or more, development over 30 metres in height (outside the City of London), development on Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land.

The results of this analysis are presented in a publicly available report which is produced on an annual basis; the Energy Monitoring report. Each report sets out the outcomes secured in the previous year as a result of the implementation of the London Plan energy policies through the planning system. This includes the carbon savings achieved in a given year, the amount of renewable energy technologies installed in development sites and the proposed heating and/or cooling strategies. All Energy Monitoring Reports are available here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/energy-monitoring-reports>

The GLA only monitors the schemes referred to the Mayor and therefore does not hold any evidence on smaller schemes. Furthermore it is not possible to estimate the number of housing

developments where gas boilers are the installed source of heating due to the complexities associated with the heating strategy of large referable applications and the mix of heating proposals coming forward (i.e. hybrid systems, where centralised energy centres include both heat pumps and gas fired boilers as a back-up option, appear frequently).

The Mayor's London Plan policy promotes the installation of low carbon technologies and through the planning review process advises planning applicants to follow the heating hierarchy with low carbon solutions such as district heat network connections and heat pumps prioritised over site-wide gas-based solutions.

3) Please see response under Question 2 for context.

The level of detail that has been requested is not available due to the reasons outlined above. However, the latest energy monitoring reports make reference to the number of heat pumps being proposed as main heat supply for residential developments of 150 units or more. These centralised proposals could include heat pump only or hybrid solutions with gas fired boiler back-up.

The latest Energy Monitoring Reports are available here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/energy-monitoring-reports>

4) See answer under Question 1.

4b) See answer under Question 1.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

  
**Senior Policy and Programme Officer**

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>