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Our ref: PO118799/GW

Darren Johnson AM
Chair of the Environment Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
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9 . September 2009

Dear Darren,

Thank you for your letter dated 20 January to Ed Miliband regarding your report 'Lagging behind: Insulating homes in London'. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and apologise for the long delay in doing so.

This report, as well as the Greater London Authority (GLA) response to the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) amendment consultation, raises important issues and I can assure you that these will be fully taken into account as part of our proposals for a Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HESS). The proposals include moving to a more radical delivery model beyond 2012 and filling all empty lofts and cavities where practical to do so by the end of 2015. The Government will publish its response in the autumn.

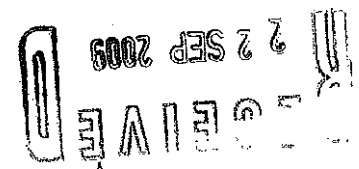
Key to meeting the proposals set out in the HESS will be better information on where measures are being installed and where opportunities remain, not least as we consider issues around distributional equity. As you highlight, we recognise that there is not a uniform spread of benefits under CERT, nor can one be guaranteed under a market-based mechanism. The mix of measures which are promoted and the level of subsidy are at suppliers' complete discretion, while varying levels of consumer demand will also impact where the benefits accrue.

We are now putting in place enhanced voluntary reporting agreements with energy suppliers to help us take informed decisions on this, both as part of any CERT extension and in any new delivery model beyond 2012. We agree that we will need to find innovative ways to improve hard to treat homes and are looking to learn from the proposed Community Energy Saving programme in delivering whole house measures, specifically targeted at promoting innovative measures and treating solid wall housing.

With best wishes,



JOANRUDDOCK



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CO₂
action