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Dear Convener,

During the Committee Meeting on 26 April 2022 on the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022, I undertook to provide the Committee with further details on the Green Heat Finance Taskforce, including its membership and the engagement it will have with local authorities.

The Scottish Government is investing at least £1.8 billion of funding for heat and energy efficiency in buildings in this Parliamentary term. However, the scale of investment needed by 2045 to transform Scotland's buildings means this cannot be fully funded by government alone. The purpose of the Green Heat Finance Taskforce, which has been working since January 2022, is to develop a portfolio of innovative financial solutions for building owners in Scotland to ensure that by 2045, our homes and buildings no longer contribute to climate change, as part of the wider just transition to net zero. The final report and recommendations will be made in September 2023, with interim findings provided by March 2023. Further information on the membership and remit of the Taskforce is available on the Scottish Government website at [Heat in Buildings: Green Heat Finance Taskforce - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Heat-in-Buildings-Green-Heat-Finance-Taskforce).

At the Committee meeting, you raised a question on sources of finance to support the delivery of the Heat in Buildings Strategy. The transition of Scotland's buildings is a multi-decade programme of work and making the transition affordable to consumers is key. Along with public sector funding, private investment must also drive progress. The Taskforce is exploring a wide range of financial mechanisms, including consumer based products such as green mortgages, institutional investment, community investment and new business models.

I recognise the strong links to Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies. The Taskforce will also act as a catalyst for long term relationships and partnering across the public and private sectors and will be engaging with stakeholders, including local authorities and the wider public sector in 2022 and 2023 as part of its work. As I indicated at the Committee

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meeting, I look forward to providing a more detailed progress update to the Committee in the near future.

I trust that this information is helpful.

**PATRICK HARVIE**

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