



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Social Justice and Social Security Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Via email only

Email: SJSS.committee@parliament.scot

22 December 2022

Dear Minister,

Energy efficiency of homes

As part of its sessions on the Winter Heating Assistance (Low Income) (Scotland) Regulations 2023, the Social Justice and Social Security Committee heard evidence related to energy efficiency in homes and the impact of this on fuel poverty and rising energy costs.

During the meeting on 8 December, Energy Action Scotland specifically commented:

“We have much higher levels of fuel poverty now, so we must provide much more support, as well as do much more with what we have. This might not be an issue for this committee, but one aspect of that is the need to reduce levels of consumption in a safe way by improving the efficiency of people’s homes. By doing that, the call on some of the benefits that are being provided could be reduced, simply because people would have less need for a winter heating payment if their resilience in their home was such that they did not need it for that purpose.”

While we appreciate that this issue is wider than the scope of the regulations in question, measures taken to address it through social security do not deal with the underlying problem.

We are aware that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has been looking into this from a local authority perspective, and note it is also an issue in private lets.

With this in mind the Committee is therefore keen to have a comprehensive update on the steps the Scottish Government is taking to improve the energy efficiency of homes. This will be useful to the Committee in considering its future work programme and in collaborating on work with other committees

We look forward to receiving a response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Don', written in a cursive style.

Natalie Don MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee