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1 April 2025

TACKLING FUEL POVERTY IN SCOTLAND: PERIODIC REPORT 2021 – 2024

Dear Collette,

I am writing to advise the Social Justice and Social Security Committee that the Scottish Government has today published '[Tackling Fuel Poverty in Scotland: Periodic Report 2021 – 2024](#).' The report outlines the steps we have, and continue to take to tackle fuel poverty aiming to achieve targets set out in the [Fuel Poverty \(Targets, Definition and Strategy\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#). I have also written to the Conveners of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport, and Local Government, Housing and Planning Committees.

As per my statement to Parliament, the periodic report sets out the substantial and positive work that the Scottish Government has taken forward since publication of the Fuel Poverty Strategy in December 2021. This has included support to increase household incomes, reshape our social security benefits, and delivery of our heat in buildings energy efficiency schemes, whilst continuing to press the UKG on the actions it needs to take, whilst also recognising the limitations of devolved powers. The ongoing high energy prices continue to be the greatest driver of fuel poverty which had a detrimental impact on progress towards our 2040 statutory targets – the most ambitious in the UK.

The fundamental policy and fiscal levers to make a real difference remain with the UK Government. It is imperative that the GB energy market is reformed as well as other wider actions taken which are necessary for Scotland's fuel poverty ambitions. I have now shared the final report from the Social Tariff Working Group with the UK Government and I remain committed to working with my counterpart on delivering this crucial policy.

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Our commitment to eradicating fuel poverty remains a priority, and I look forward to receiving the Scottish Fuel Poverty Advisory Panel's own report by Autumn for due consideration.

I will be happy to follow up with the Committee following receipt of the Panel's report and welcome your continued support on tackling the critical issue of fuel poverty.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Alasdair Allan

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