



# National Insulation Association

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP,  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

12 October 2020

Dear Chancellor,

## **Extension of the Green Homes Grant scheme is now essential to its success**

Huge progress has been made since the announcement of the Green Homes Grant Scheme, the most significant government funding for “able to pay” energy efficiency in years. The response from consumers has been nothing short of inspirational. It is now vital that we do not miss this opportunity or lose the enthusiasm that has been created.

## **Announcement of an extension of the Green Homes Grant Scheme beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 is urgently required and has become essential to scheme success.**

National Insulation Association (NIA) members were delighted with the announcement of the £2 billion Green Homes Grant Scheme earlier this year. The NIA has been working with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to support the development of the scheme and we are pleased to see steps taken to protect consumers and ensure that measures are delivered to the highest standard. Almost every business within our membership has been inundated with customer enquiries demonstrating that it has captured the consumer imagination.

There has been a great deal of optimism and we know that Government has been working tirelessly towards launch. However, we feel duty bound to communicate a widely held concern that the timeline for the scheme is too short. Despite an estimated target of 600,000 homes across England, and the scheme launch on 30<sup>th</sup> September, the latest news is that vouchers will not be available until mid-November. This leaves just four and a half months for the industry to deliver.

In addition to the commercial and logistical challenge of scaling up delivery in the available timeframe, winter weather, additional local lockdowns and reduced availability of trained personnel (due to sickness or need to self-isolate) all present further challenges for the industry. Many of these issues can be overcome; however, the short three-month validity of individual vouchers and “drop

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dead" date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 for all vouchers drastically reduces the remedy options available to companies in the sector.

As the timescales decrease further, homeowners may lose trust in the incentive and be less inclined to apply for the vouchers. This presents a real risk that many of the vouchers will be left unclaimed and that much-needed energy saving opportunities will be missed. The Government's aspirations for job creation are also at risk. New employment opportunities are dependent on new work acquired through the incentive; if the potential for additional work decreases due to lack of customer interest and diminishing timescales, businesses will be less likely to take people on.

Ensuring that there is time for vouchers to be claimed and measures delivered is the best means of maximising job creation promised by the Green Homes Grant Scheme. Furthermore, it will instil confidence in consumers and industry; the sooner the extension is announced, the greater that confidence will be. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the National Insulation Association can provide any assistance or further support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Horrocks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Yours sincerely,

Derek Horrocks, Chairman