



The Voice of the UK's Insulation Industry

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The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

28th September 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

Autumn Statement must renew confidence in Social Housing Decarbonisation

Over the course of this parliament, the government has done an excellent job in building a long-term plan to fund decarbonisation of social housing. The scale and ambition of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund has attracted considerable investment and forward-thinking contributions from some of the biggest names in construction and refurbishment. It was indeed the driver for many of the largest organisations in the sector coming together in an unprecedented move to form the NHDG. However recent developments, such as shifts in net zero policies and the discontinuation of the Energy Efficiency Taskforce have severely shaken confidence.

Investing in retrofitting social housing not only enhances the quality of life for those least able to afford the costs of keeping warm but also delivers tangible improvements in health and well-being that reduce the burden on other services such as health and social care. We understand your concern not to impose expensive changes on households before they are ready, yet the opposite is the case in social housing where many properties are crying out for improvements that will change the lives of those living in them.

The government's commitment to energy efficiency has played a pivotal role in attracting investment and fostering new partnerships between industry, social housing providers, schools, colleges, and community groups to form local initiatives to provide the platform for community led skills and training in retrofit at scale. Collectively, these organisations are today creating the foundation for cost-effective future retrofitting across all housing sectors, including private rentals and privately owned homes. They are also leading the charge in reducing the costs of low carbon heating technologies through large scale deployment.

It is imperative that the progress achieved so far is not lost. Even though announcements on boiler phase-out, private rental sector regulations and the taskforce may appear unrelated to social housing, we can confirm that they have severely rocked confidence across our sector with

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the potential for a significant scale back in long-term planning and investment without further timely intervention.

On behalf of the National Home Decarbonisation Group and the National Insulation Association we are writing to urge the government to restore confidence in the sector at this critical juncture in the upcoming Autumn Statement by confirming the funding of £3.8bn for the next wave (Wave 3) of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. This should be accompanied with details of the competition and an aspiration that successful bids are announced before the end of the current fiscal year. This will give a clear signal to NHDG members and housing providers to continue to invest at scale in the innovation and skills and training at scale that provide the foundation for the drive to Net Zero.

Along with other organisations, we will of course be submitting a formal submission to the Autumn Statement with further evidence and information supporting this call. We would welcome a discussion with you at nearest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

D. Horrocks

Chair – National Home Decarbonisation Group and National Insulation Association