

CLEAN HEAT BILL

Thank you for contacting me about cleaner heating and green homes. I agree with you that we need greater action from the Government in this area.

As you know, urgent action is required to drive down emissions in this decisive decade if we are to have any chance of limiting warming to close to 1.5°C. I therefore share your concern that we are not meeting this situation with the speed and scale of action it demands. I believe this is evident in the Government's approach to domestic heating.

UK homes contribute, as you highlight, around 14% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions and are much worse insulated than those in Europe. Indeed, emissions from buildings are higher now than in 2015.

Yet when the Government finally published its much-delayed Heat and Buildings Strategy in October, it proved, in my view, disappointing. The single biggest thing that could make a difference would be a ten-year house-by-house, street-by-street retrofit plan for the nation's homes. This would cut bills and emissions and ensure energy security. Yet while there are 19 million homes with an energy performance rating below band C, the proposals in the heat and building strategy will help just a tiny fraction of that number. There is not even a replacement for the Green Homes Grant that the Government scrapped just months after it was set up.

On heat pumps, the Government's plans also fall far short of what is required. It is providing funding for just 30,000 heat pumps a year when its own target says we need 600,000 homes per year to be installing them by 2028.

The current impact of rising gas prices on household finances provides clear evidence of the need for retrofitting our housing stock, while this would also deliver obvious benefits for jobs, the economy and the planet. I can therefore assure you that I will continue to support calls for action on this issue, including for £28 billion of additional capital investment for the green transition and a Green New Deal that will help create hundreds of thousands of new low carbon jobs.

Yours sincerely,

Mary