



Public Accounts Committee

Addressed to
Jeremy Pocklington CB
Permanent Secretary
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
55 Whitehall
SW1A 2HP
London

By email

15 July 2025

Treasury Minute response – Energy bills support

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Thank you for your response to the Committee's report on Energy bills support, which was published in June. I was pleased to see your commitments to take action in some areas, including to share with the Committee lessons for responding to any future rises in energy prices, and to update the Department's procedures for communicating with the public about energy supply issues.

I am writing to follow up on your response to some other recommendations around targeting support for consumers. I am concerned that the Department does not appear to be any better placed on some key elements ahead of next winter, when consumers will again face difficulty paying their bills. My specific concerns are:

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommended that the Department should set out a plan for how it would be able to target support to both domestic and non-domestic consumers in the future, including the actions it is taking to address the challenges with data matching. You accepted this recommendation with a target date of September 2025. You outlined plans to consult on expanding the Warm Home Discount scheme to more fuel poor households through data matching, a step which was already highlighted in the NAO's report in energy bill support. Your response also did not indicate how the Department would target support to non-domestic consumers.

These steps fall short of a plan for targeting support. I should be grateful once you have developed a plan for targeting support to both domestic and non-domestic consumers if you could share this with the Committee ahead of next winter.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommended that the Department should, in time for winter, develop strategies for providing financial support to consumers at greater risk of fuel poverty. These strategies should consider how to work with organisations with helpful insights, such as registered social landlords. Your response indicated that the Department is working with relevant stakeholders and advocacy charities to



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"unlock" data that will help to target support to those who need help with their energy bills. We would be grateful for an update on the progress you have made with improving your approach ahead of next winter.

I would be grateful if you could write back on these points by **14 August 2025**.

I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General and to the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours Sincerely

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts

Cc'd
Gareth Davies, Comptroller and Auditor General
David Fairbrother OBE, Treasury Officer of Accounts