



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP
Minister of State for Housing

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

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Dear Darren,

DECARBONISING HEAT IN HOMES

Thank you for your letter of 21 June to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting that a MHCLG minister provide evidence to your committee as part of its inquiry into decarbonising heat in homes. I welcome the valuable role that this inquiry will play in looking at an important element of the decarbonisation of residential buildings that will be vital to achieving our statutory commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

BEIS is the government department responsible for decarbonising heat, including the overall strategy for moving to low carbon heating systems for housing, the technologies involved in this change, supply chains and installer capacity, financial incentive schemes for homeowners and landlords, the delivery of local heat networks and the very significant challenge of retrofitting existing homes. BEIS is currently working to publish the Heat and Building Strategy and developing the Government's Net Zero Strategy to be published later this year. Given the clear lead BEIS has on the issues that the inquiry is investigating, we feel that on this occasion we should decline in favour of BEIS ministers who will be able to answer the questions contained in your inquiry's terms of reference more fully. I spoke to this point during a meeting of the Environmental Audit Committee on 2 December 2020.

While we work closely with BEIS on achieving net zero for housing, MHCLG leads only in certain limited areas relevant to housing energy performance. We do, of course, have a leading role on new homes and are delivering the Future Homes Standard (FHS), which has been designed to be net-zero ready, and which focuses on energy efficiency, including ventilation. We are also the lead department for the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) Regulations and the associated register for Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). Should the Committee wish to raise questions about these specific areas we would be more than happy to provide evidence. However, from the information that has so far been made available to us, it does not appear that these will be areas of focus for your inquiry.

RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP