



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Dear Darren,

Thank you for the useful discussion on 20 July. During the select committee hearing, I agreed to send more information regarding how MHCLG and BEIS currently collaborate on a Ministerial and official level on policies for decarbonising heat in homes. This information is set out in **Annex A** below and an organogram outlining the governance structures between the two departments is provided in **Annex B**.

I hope you find this useful and of interest.

RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP



Annex A: Response to Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee request

1. How do BEIS and MHCLG currently collaborate at both the ministerial and official level in driving the Net Zero agenda?

Decarbonising housing is vital to delivering the Government's statutory commitment to reaching Net Zero by 2050. We will need to replace fossil fuel heating in homes with low carbon heating to achieve this. BEIS is the department responsible for most of the policies for delivering the decarbonisation of residential heat and has been developing the forthcoming Heat and Buildings Strategy.

MHCLG and BEIS work closely together on policies for decarbonising housing and domestic heat and the governance arrangements for this are set out below in response to your question. Note that these arrangements complement and are additional to the robust governance structures that are in place at department level in both BEIS and MHCLG.

Cabinet Committees/supporting officials committees on Net Zero:

The main co-ordinating bodies for work on Net Zero are:

1. Climate Action Strategy Committee (CAS)
2. Climate Action Implementation Committee (CAI)
3. Climate Change National Strategic Implementation Group (NSIG)
4. NSIG Net Zero Sub-group
5. NSIG Domestic Adaption and Resilience Sub-group
6. 25 Year Environment Plan Board

At ministerial level, the Climate Action Strategy Committee and the Climate Action Implementation Committee ensure that work on Net Zero is progressed. At official (Director General) level, the National Strategy Implementation Group for Climate Change provides senior official level co-ordination a broad range of climate-change related issues that cut across multiple departments, including heat decarbonisation.

MHCLG and BEIS both attend the monthly Director-level NSIG Net Zero Sub-group and NSIG Adaption Sub-group alongside other departments as well as the Defra led 25 Year Environment Plan Board.

BEIS/MHCLG engagement on heat and buildings

Officials work together routinely on key aspects of policy, for example through the development of relevant chapters of the Net Zero Strategy. The cross-departmental governance structures reflect this and details are set out below:

1. Heat and Buildings Strategy and Delivery Board (HBSDB) (Meets every six weeks; BEIS/MHCLG co-chairs)
 - The Heat and Buildings Strategy and Delivery Board, jointly chaired by BEIS and MHCLG Directors, was recently established to coordinate our departments' shared interests in decarbonising almost all buildings by 2050. This board reviews progress across the Heat and Buildings Portfolio and discusses new policies to meet our Net Zero commitments.

2. Net Zero Buildings Council (NZBC) (Will meet once every two months subject to review; BEIS/MHCLG co-chairs)
 - The Net Zero Buildings Council will be jointly chaired by the Secretaries of State of BEIS and MHCLG. Its first meeting is expected to be in September 2021 bringing together representatives from the heating and energy industry, housebuilders, academia, consumers and local government. The council aims to provide ministerial and senior industry leadership to support the successful delivery of the government's Heat and Buildings Strategy. The NZBC will identify how industry can work alongside government and provide strategic advice towards the government's aim of decarbonising almost all buildings by 2050.
3. Energy Performance of Buildings Board (EPoB) (Meets monthly; MHCLG chairs)
 - This board provides strategic oversight and assurance of the strands of work related to energy performance of buildings. Attendees are Deputy Directors from across MHCLG and one Deputy Director from BEIS. The EPoB coordinates key MHCLG-led Net Zero-related work such as the Future Homes Standard / Future Buildings Standard. The EPoB is informed by the Future Standards Board, EPB Projects (for the Register) and the EPC Futures Boards. These involve strong collaborative work with BEIS, who jointly chair the EPC Futures Board.
4. Officials also meet regularly through a range of set piece and ad hoc meetings and boards to progress work on the Heat and Buildings Strategy and the Net Zero Strategy.

Local government engagement on net zero/heat and buildings:

1. Cross-Whitehall Policy Group on Local Climate Action.
 - MHCLG and BEIS collaborate closely through this MHCLG-led government-wide policy group on Local Climate Action. The group has an important role in ensuring messages in the Net Zero Strategy, sector-specific strategies, and environmental policy more broadly are consistent and coherent in their messages, and that the collective offer of support for local authorities is robust, and the component parts led by different departments are complementary.

Annex B: Organogram of shared MHCLG/BEIS Governance structures relating to Decarbonising Heat in Homes

