



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

020 7219 4494 - beiscom@parliament.uk - www.parliament.uk/beis - [@CommonsBEIS](https://twitter.com/CommonsBEIS)

Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
COP26 President
Cabinet Office

[By email]

3 February 2022

Dear Alok,

Decarbonising heat in homes inquiry report

Further to the publication today of my Committee's inquiry report into *decarbonising heat in homes*, I am writing to you in your capacity as the Chair of the Cabinet Office Climate Adaptation and Implementation Committee to gain an insight into the cross-departmental co-ordination and ongoing work in the decarbonisation of domestic heat and net zero, more widely.

Our inquiry highlighted that there is limited co-ordination between Government departments on the delivery of decarbonised home heating. Evidence to our inquiry conveyed that energy efficiency and decarbonising home heating were policy areas that sat neatly within the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Department's remit. Policy around improving new and existing housing stock with regard to planning, building standards and housing supply sat with the then Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the budgets for this all is within the remit of the Treasury. Our inquiry highlighted that the lack of co-ordination between these departments has led to issues in the delivery of heating policies, for example, the Future Homes Standard, which aims for new build homes to be fitted with low carbon heating, and high levels of energy efficiency to ensure that homes built to the new standard will be zero carbon ready and have 75% to 80% lower carbon emissions than those built to current standards. The Future Homes Standard is to be implemented in 2025 and, therefore, homes built between now and then will have to be retrofitted with low carbon heating and this will incur extra costs. Hence, our report recommends that the Future Homes Standard be implemented in 2023 instead and that there is greater joint working between BEIS and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) notes in its *2021 Progress to Parliament Report* that "some departments (e.g., Defra, MHCLG, but also parts of BEIS and the Treasury) are lagging behind others and appear timid in their approach"; the CCC continues that "the path to Net Zero requires high ambition and an effective policy framework in all areas".¹ It is unacceptable that some departments are lagging behind others and we believe that for the net zero agenda to be delivered, departments must co-ordinate their approach and work together.

My Committee's report recommends that in your capacity as the Chair of the Cabinet Office Climate Adaptation and Implementation Committee, you take ministerial responsibility for improved co-ordination between departments and present an annual report to Parliament on progress in the delivery of cross departmental net zero policies. Will you heed this responsibility to ensure that net zero is a high priority policy area for your Cabinet colleagues and their respective departments and will you agree to putting a report on cross departmental delivery before Parliament each year?

¹ Committee on Climate Change, *Progress in reducing emissions 2021 Report to Parliament*, June 2021, p 16



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

020 7219 4494 - beiscom@parliament.uk - www.parliament.uk/beis - [@CommonsBEIS](https://twitter.com/CommonsBEIS)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darren Jones".

Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee