

**Reporting on Progress of Fuel Poverty Programmes
- supplementary information to oral evidence 18 Sept 2013**

I said that I would provide further information to the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee on reporting of fuel poverty programme progress. The following information has been provided to me by the Director of Energy Action Scotland, who sits on the Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum.

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The Fuel Poverty Forum had requested that civil servants provide it with regular (monthly) and robust reporting of the previous Scottish Government fuel poverty programmes. However, reporting was patchy and often out of date or subsequently revised and in a format that made comparisons between programmes meaningless. This limited the ability of the Forum to learn lessons from the programmes' activities and to make recommendations accordingly. Since reports were to be in the public domain, it also restricted others' abilities to make comment.

Going forward, in May this year the Forum agreed with Scottish Government officials a form of reporting for the new Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS). To date, no report of substance has been received in relation to HEEPS. The Forum now expects that the first of these reports will be made available before the end of the calendar year. The reports are intended to be made quarterly and it is the intention that they will provide the information that the Forum has stipulated.

It is perhaps worthy of note that the new GB-wide Energy Companies Obligation (ECO), which forms an integral part of the HEEPS programmes, is reporting publicly on a monthly basis and "presents energy efficiency measures delivered by obligated suppliers which have been approved by Ofgem. It shows the types of measures approved to date and supplier progress towards the three ECO obligations".

Only when such reporting is provided can comparisons between previous and current Scottish Government fuel poverty programmes be made both in terms of effectiveness in fulfilling objectives and in terms of budget expenditure .

Energy Action Scotland would respectfully recommend that the Committee request an annual report on the progress of the fuel poverty programmes from the appropriate Cabinet Secretary.