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Our Reference: 202500495851

Your Reference: Glasgow City Council Motion Instruction - Chief Executive (OFFICIAL)

15 December 2025

Dear Susanne,

Thank you for your letter of 26 November. I note the motion passed by Glasgow City Council, and would like to assure Elected Members that tackling fuel poverty and improving access to affordable, clean energy for all people across Scotland is a top priority for this Government. In an energy rich country like Scotland, nobody should be struggling to pay their bills.

I agree wholeheartedly with the Council's calls for a social tariff and need for standing charge reform – the UK Government must urgently deliver automatic and targeted discounts on energy bills to address unaffordable bills at source. Under our proposals which include, in some instances, removal of the standing charge, 660,000 households in Scotland would see their estimated fuel bills go down by an average of £700.

Unfortunately, the powers to implement a social tariff or deliver standing charge reform remain with the UK Government and Ofgem. However, we are committed to working closely with them to make urgent progress.

Where we do have powers, we are taking action. We have allocated £1.67bn of funding through our Heat in Buildings schemes this Parliamentary session, including committed spend of over £840m for energy efficiency and clean heat projects. In 2025/26, our schemes (e.g. Warmer Homes Scotland and the Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan) are supporting approximately 20,000 households, saving them up to £500 a year on their energy bills. We continue to work in partnership with the council to improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot



In parallel, our recently published draft Heat in Buildings Bill provides early clarity and direction, giving Parliament, households and industry a clear road map of our path ahead. We plan to introduce a Bill early in the next session and stakeholder engagement will continue until the pre-election period.

Finally, it is of course critical that our vast renewable energy brings benefits like low electricity prices to the people of Scotland. Now that zonal pricing has been discounted, the UK Government must immediately set out what reformed national pricing will mean for bill-payers, developers and investors. We will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure their views are represented.

We are also investing in our Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), which supports communities across Scotland to participate in, and benefit from, the energy transition. Since its inception, CARES has advised over 1,600 organisations and provided over £74 million in funding to communities throughout Scotland, supporting over 1,000 projects and the installation of 66MW of renewable energy.

Local Energy Scotland deliver CARES on behalf of the Scottish Government. Information on CARES is available through their [website](#), and they can also be contacted directly via email at info@localenergy.scot, or by phone on 0808 808 2288.

I hope that this letter assures the Council that the Scottish Government is committed to delivering affordable, clean energy for the people of Scotland. Whilst the fundamental fiscal and policy levers to make a real difference lie with the UK Government, the Scottish Government continues to invest in our energy efficiency delivery programmes, targeted at those most at risk of fuel poverty.

My officials have ensured that the relevant policy teams are aware of the full motion and will follow up where appropriate.

Yours sincerely



GILLIAN MARTIN

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