

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

February 2023

Dear Constituent

Thank you for your email about energy efficiency of homes.

I take the issue of energy efficiency very seriously, 26 percent of the north's carbon emissions come from our homes, moreover, we have a higher percentage of older properties than the rest of the country: 24 percent of all homes in the north were built before 1919, and 41 percent were built before 1944. These older homes pose serious issues when it comes to energy efficiency.

I have raised this issue in the House of Commons on a number of occasions, having held a debate on the Energy Efficiency of Homes in the North in July of 2022, and having raised the cost of retrofitting homes at Energy Security and Net Zero questions today.

With regard to your specific point on heat pumps, the Government fully understands the potential of heat pumps in driving down carbon emissions, as do I, and consequently has set an ambitious target of 600,000 heat pump installations a year by 2028. A £60 million Heat Pump Ready programme will help to reach this target and provide funding for pioneering heat pump technologies.

The ambitious Heat and Buildings Strategy marks a step change in improving energy efficiency. From 2035, all new heating systems installed in UK homes will either use low-carbon technologies, such as electronic heat pumps or will support other new technologies, such as hydrogen-ready boilers, where the Government is confident fuel can be clean and green.

To encourage consumers to install low-carbon alternatives, a new £450 million three-year Boiler Upgrade Scheme will offer households £5,000 for low-carbon heating systems, such as heat pumps and £6,000 for ground source heat pumps. This scheme is open to domestic and small non-domestic properties, running from 2022 to 2025. More information about eligibility can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-may-be-eligible-for-the-boiler-upgrade-scheme-from-april-2022>

The strategy also announced that the Government is boosting funding for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, by investing a further £800 million over 2022/23 to 2024/25, and the Home Upgrade Grant, by investing a further £950 million over 2022/23 to 2024/25. This aims to improve the energy performance of low-income households' homes, support low-carbon heat installations, reduce fuel poverty and build the green retrofitting sector to benefit all homeowners. More broadly, the strategy will support 240,000 green skilled jobs by 2035 and deliver £6 billion Gross Value Added by 2030.

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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Retrofitting is a win-win-win-win situation, cutting carbon emissions and fuel bills, tackling health issues, reducing our reliance on gas imports and creating new jobs in the north. I want to assure you that I will continue to press the Government to do more to ensure we can make energy efficiency measures more affordable.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again. If you would like to keep up to date with my activities as your Member of Parliament then please subscribe to my Darlington Matters newsletter using this link: www.petergibson.org/signup

Yours Sincerely
Peter Gibson

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