

Rt Hon Kwasi Karteng MP
Minister for Business Energy and
Clean Growth
Department for Business, Energy and
Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

1B Melbourne Close
Belper
Derbyshire
DE56 1NG
15 August 2020

Your Ref. MCB2020/02558

Dear Mr Kwarteng

Energy Efficiency Standards for new homes: consultation and legislation on improved energy efficiency

Late last year, I wrote about this matter to my constituency MP, Pauline Latham (Mid Derbyshire) who kindly passed my letter to the Rt Hon. Robert Jenrick, who then passed it to your office. You replied to her on the 13 February (reference above) and she copied your response to me: I write in this connection.

You will no doubt be aware that the glacial progress on this issue was highlighted by the Committee for Climate Change in their recent. I understand that the consultation you refer to in your second paragraph was completed on 7th February – 6 months ago. Your letter indicates that you intend that amendments to the Building Regulations would be made this year, incorporating improved energy efficiency standards for new homes, in the light of this consultation.

The findings of the Consultation don't appear on the UK Government's website: are these not yet available? I appreciate the Coronavirus outbreak has been enormously disruptive to the everyday work of Government, yet the general public also regards climate change as a very grave concern. Despite concerted pressures for a "green recovery" from the pandemic, the very limited measures recently announced (encouraging active travel, and the "Green Homes Grant"), go nowhere near to addressing the extent and urgency of the issue.

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While the latter's practical support to enable householders to improve the housing stock and reduce greenhouse gas emissions is very welcome, legislation requiring developers to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with new homes is vital. Please can you let me know the department's current plans (including the timescale) to publish the amendments to the Building Regulations you refer to in your letter, and incorporate these into law.

While the current Climate Emergency is but one of many urgent problems facing government, without swift progress to decarbonise the housing stock, and enact the other major policy shifts in transport and energy policy required, the UK will be betraying future generations, and may lose any credibility in exercising leadership of ~~COP27~~COP26 next year.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Yours sincerely

Chris Ring

Cc. Rt Hon. Pauline Latham, MP