



Government Commitments referencing EPC Band C

1. Fuel Poor Homes

The commitment is unambiguous: all fuel poor homes to be EPC band C by 2030. Stated at least 15 times by the Conservative Manifesto and Ministers:

- 1. 2017 The Conservative Election Manifesto** which said on page 60 'we will improve the energy efficiency of existing homes, especially for the least well off, by committing to upgrading all fuel poor homes to EPC Band C by 2030.'
- 2. In October 2017 in The Clean Growth Strategy** which included a foreword by the PM herself and said on page 13 at para 12 'we want all fuel poor homes to be upgraded to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C by 2030' and again at para 4 on page 77 under the heading 'Policies and Proposals'.
- 3. Straight after this, on 24th October 2017** in answer to a written parliamentary question (WPQ) Claire Perry spoke of the '*Government's commitment to upgrade all fuel poor homes to EPC Band C by 2030*' (WPQ No 108862).
- 4. On 28th November 2017 in oral evidence to the BEIS Select Committee** Claire Perry said, in answer to Question 50 '*we want to upgrade all our fuel poor homes to band C, and to have all our housing stock, where cost effective, at EPC band C.*' It is noteworthy that the caveat that she applied to the entire housing stock ('where cost effective') she did **not** apply to fuel poor homes. Later in the same evidence session she referred to this as 'meeting our manifesto commitment' (Question 123).
- 5. On the 5th December 2017 in answer to WPQ No 116070** by Gill Furniss MP asking 'what steps are the Government taking to upgrade fuel poor homes to band C or above.' Claire Perry assured her of '*the Government's commitment to upgrade all fuel poor homes to EPC band C by 2030.*'
- 6. On 18th December 2017 in answer to WPQ No118771** Claire Perry again spoke of policy 'to meet the Government's commitment to upgrade all **fuel** poor homes to EPC Band C by 2030.'
- 7. On 22nd December 2017 Lord Henley**, BEIS Minister in the House of Lords spoke of policy '*to meet the Government's commitment to upgrade all **fuel** poor homes to Band C by 2030*' (WPQ 4210HL)
- 8. On the 30th March 2018 in the consultation on the Energy Company Obligation – ECO 3 2018-2022.** The foreword said '*The changes [to ECO] are an important step on the road to meeting our commitment to improve the energy efficient rating of poor fuel homes to EPC to band C by 2030.*'

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9. **30th March 2018 in a press release from BEIS and the Rt Hon Claire Perry** which talked of bringing *'fuel poor homes up to Energy Performance rating of C by 2030.'*
10. **The commitments in the Clean Growth Strategy were repeated in the April 2018 update** of the CGS available on [the Government website](#).
11. **On 12th July 2018 Lord Henley** again we *'want all fuel poor homes to be upgraded to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C by 2030'* (WPQ No 9169HL).
12. **26th July 2018 in call for evidence regarding Energy Performance Certificates for Buildings** the foreword by Claire Perry herself and fellow Minister Kit Malthouse said *'all fuel poor homes to be upgraded to EPC band C by 2030.'*
13. On 1st August 2018 Lord Henley spoke of policy *'meet the Government's commitment to upgrade all fuel poor homes to EPC Band C by 2030'* (WPQ 9834HL).
14. **On 7th December 2018 the Government's response to the Future Framework for Heat and Buildings** call for evidence, page 28 said *'We will review the best form of support beyond 2022, recognising the need to both save carbon and meet the government's commitment to upgrade fuel poor homes to EPC Band C by 2030..'*
15. **On the 11th December 2018 in the annual fuel poverty debate in Parliament** BEIS Minister Richard Harrington said *'we are committed to improving the homes of the fuel poor to band C By 2030.'* (Hansard col 238)

2. Non Fuel Poor Homes ('able to pay')

Initially only an 'aspiration':

1. **October 2017 The Clean Growth Strategy:** "... and our aspiration is for as many homes as possible to be EPC Band C by 2035 where practical, cost-effective and affordable" para 12 page 13 repeated on page 77 under the heading 'Policies and Proposals'.
2. **April 24th 2019 Minister's evidence to BEIS Select Committee:**
 - i. **specifically 'firmed up' to a target by the (then) Minister Claire Perry:** "... we only set that target (i.e. 'all homes to reach EPC band C by 2035') 18 months ago ... we have set an ambitious target..." (Answer to question 392, BEIS Select Committee 24th April 2019).
 - ii. 'We estimate that to get to EPC band C would cost £35 billion to £65 billion or so ... **that could be much lower if cost curves reduce much more quickly** for different sorts of technologies...' (Claire Perry answer to question 394.)
3. **October 2019: Leading on Clean Growth: The Government Response to the Committee on Climate Change's 2019 Progress Report to Parliament. Presented to Parliament October 2019 personally signed by the Secretary of State, Andrea Leadsom and the Minister of State, Kwasi Kwarteng**
 - i. Page 43: 'The **government is committed** to ensuring that policy is in place to enable able-to pay households to take up energy efficiency measures. This is essential if we are to meet the aspiration set out in the Clean Growth Strategy that as many homes as possible should reach EPC Band C by 2035.'
 - ii. Page 43: 'Recommendation 4: Set clear trajectories of standards across the building stock and firm policies to drive delivery. This includes introducing concrete policies for able-to-pay homeowners...'

4. 30th October 2019: Government response to BEIS Select Committee's recommendations

- i. Introduction: 'The Government agrees wholeheartedly that energy efficiency is a fundamental pillar of our approach to reaching net zero emissions, addressing fuel poverty and cutting energy bills. This is why the Government has set ambitious energy efficiency targets' ... 'we do ... agree that a significant increase in deployment rates will be required in order to deliver the transition to net zero.'
- ii. Response to Recommendation 1: 'Currently, around 17 million homes in England are below EPC Band C. Our preliminary estimates suggest that delivering our EPC C aspiration will require mobilising between £35–£65 billion of investment to improve homes below EPC C across the UK. **'Our analysis suggests that our EPC C aspiration for all homes represents good value for money** both for Carbon Budget 5, and in the context of achieving net zero.'
- iii. Response to Recommendation 2: 'Furthermore, these investment estimates are based on current capital costs, **which we are working to reduce** through a range of policy levers, such as the use of innovation support and long-term, transparent approaches to regulation.'

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