

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

07.04.21 Dear Secretary of State,

GREEN HOMES GRANT SCHEME – NEXT STEPS

I am writing on behalf of the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) following the Government's decision to end the Green Homes Grant scheme at the end of last month.

The Government's commitment to tackle climate change and deliver a low carbon economy is acknowledged and supported by the CLC. The Green Homes Grants scheme launched last year was an important signal to the industry that the Government recognised the need to upgrade our existing housing stock to make it more green and more energy efficient. It also provided an opportunity for many small construction companies to start to upskill their workforces to meet the needs of the scheme which has now not been realised. The decision to end this scheme although not surprising was disappointing. It has left the industry without a clear signal about what, if anything, the Government's next step will be.

The CLC believes that now is an important opportunity for the Government to develop its longer term thinking which will be of a wider benefit to the country. The long awaited Heat and Building Strategy provides such an opportunity to set out an ambitious long term strategy to make our homes more energy efficient. To succeed though it is imperative that this strategy addresses the wider need for a 'fabric first' approach to our homes.

The CLC has developed, with the support of the construction industry, a National Retrofit Strategy to tackle our existing homes over a twenty year period. I understand your Department is aware of the National Retrofit Strategy but I would urge you to look at this as part of your commitment to launching the Heat and Building Strategy and delivering a low carbon built environment. As an industry we are putting our plans in place to meet the Government's Net Zero by 2050 targets through our COConstructZero industry change programme, and a Government supported National Retrofit Strategy is a key priority to achieving this.

The CLC would of course be happy to explore this with you and your officials in more detail if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Mitchell
Co-Chair, Construction Leadership Council