

Julie James AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Senedd Cymru

3 August 2023

Dear Jenny

Thank you for your letter of 5 July, regarding the Warm Homes Programme and a social tariff for energy.

In terms of the new demand-led scheme, the key milestones we are working to are:

Invitation to Tender published	August
Selection of preferred bidder	Mid October
Assurance Gateway	w/c 23 October
Intention to Award letters (2 week standstill period)	Mid November
Contract Award	End November
Mobilisation starts	End November

The complexity in the transition between the new and old contracts will, in large part, depend on whether there are new suppliers or not. My officials are in discussions with the current Nest suppliers to begin arrangements for demobilising Nest. The extension to the current Nest contract to the end of March 2024 will ensure there will be no gap in provision between the new and existing programmes.

We will be working with the successful bidders during the first year to further develop the scheme to accommodate communal and small-scale area-based schemes, such as the treatment of a terrace of houses or a block of flats where that is the most appropriate intervention. This will not require an additional procurement exercise.

We scaled up our advice to households during the winter of 2022/23, which included funding an increased number of energy advisors providing support through our Nest freephone service. This increased capacity has been retained this year to service additional demand. We will be working with partners on our Fuel Poverty Advisory Group to disseminate information on the support available.

We have also launched our Climate Action Wales website, illustrating the everyday actions people can take to reduce our impact on the planet. This includes ways to save money and energy at home through greener and more energy efficient behaviours and choices.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The responsibility for developing a social tariff and other policies to deliver protections for vulnerable customers rests with the UK Government. This Welsh Government has consistently and loudly called for a range of measures to better support those in need, including a social energy tariff. I understand the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero have listened and intend to issue a consultation on this matter later this year.

I am copying this response to the Minister for Social Justice, Jane Hutt MS.

Yours sincerely



**Julie James AS/MS**  
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