



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th August 2001

Chief Executive
South Derbyshire District Council
Civic Offices
Civic Way
Swadlincote
Derbyshire
DE11 0AH

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL	
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Dear Chief Executive

Home Energy Conservation Bill 2001

I am writing to ask that your local authority supports (and helps me with) my Private Member's Bill. Having come fourth in the Private Members' Ballot, I stand a good chance of getting it into law. For this reason I am seeking to achieve the widest possible support for the best possible Bill - to help achieve energy conservation targets, end fuel poverty and ensure decent accommodation in houses in multiple occupation.

May I ask you, therefore, to

- Formally seek the support of your authority
- Let your local MPs know of that support and ask them to attend the House and vote for the Bill on 30th November
- Let Ministers (Micheal Meacher MP @ House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA and Lord Falconer @ House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW) know of that support.

You will see that the enclosed **draft** Bill has three Parts all of which I believe will help local authorities.

- Part 1 deals with improving the Home Energy Conservation Act. All the suggestions have come from HECA officers.
- Part 2 deals with co-ordinating local and national measures on fuel poverty. It is action, not 'report' oriented
- Part 3 sets up a national licensing scheme for HMOs – which will include energy efficiency standards. I believe that this will help achieve HECA targets, end fuel poverty and ensure that all HMOs are upgraded to provide decent accommodation.

I do stress that this is a draft. This means two things. First, that the wording is a 'lay version' and only indicates the thrust of the Bill. The Part on HMOs will, in particular, need redrafting to include provisions about entry, registered licensees etc.

Secondly, your views on the enclosed draft Bill will be welcome. Have we got it right? Is anything missing? Please let me know. I am planning to hold a series of consultation meetings in October. If you would like one in your area please let me know as soon as possible.

I look forward to receiving your support and your views – in order to achieve the objectives of the best Bill with the widest possible support.

If you require any further information, as I am going on holiday shortly, may I ask you to contact Ron Bailey of the All Party Parliamentary Warm Homes Group who is heading up my support team? His address is 62 Bargery Road, London SE6 2LW (tel: 020 7359 8000) or email baileyr@parliament.uk.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Des Turner', written in a cursive style.

Dr Des Turner MP

PS. If you wish to write to me personally please reply to my constituency office - 179 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6AG

Home Energy Conservation Bill 2001

A Bill to make further provision about energy conservation; to make further provision about the eradication of fuel poverty; to provide for the establishment of a registration and licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation; and for connected purposes

Part 1 Functions Relating to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

1. Every energy conservation authority shall appoint an officer to take responsibility for the discharge of functions and the achievement of targets set pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 ('the Act of 1995').
2. (1) The Secretary of State shall, after consulting with energy conservation authorities, set up a standardised reporting system for progress made by those authorities pursuant to the Act of 1995.
(2) The Secretary of State may, after consulting with energy conservation authorities, and shall if in his opinion an energy conservation authority appears to be highly unlikely to reach the targets set in its reports under the Act of 1995, indicate a sum or proportion of any HIP allocation made to any such authority that shall be spent for the purpose of achieving any targets set pursuant to the Act of 1995.
(3) Every energy conservation authority shall take such steps as it deems appropriate to achieve the targets for energy efficiency improvements set in its report pursuant to the Act of 1995.

Part 2 Functions Relating to Fuel Poverty

3. (1) The Secretary of State may, after consulting with energy conservation authorities, give guidance to such authorities as to the way in which they may discharge their functions pursuant to the Act of 1995 in order to assist him in the implementation of the strategy to eradicate fuel poverty published by him pursuant to the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000.
(2) It shall be the duty of energy conservation authorities to discharge their functions under the Act of 1995 in accordance with such guidance given pursuant to this section.

Part 3 Houses in Multiple Occupation (Licensing Scheme)

- 4 (1) The Secretary of State shall within twelve months of the passing of this Act make regulations
 - (a) prescribing the nature of schemes for the registration and licensing of houses multiple occupation; and
 - (b) requiring each housing authority to prepare and implement such a scheme in their area.
- (2) The regulations shall, in particular, provide that schemes shall require owners or landlords of houses in multiple occupation, as a condition of registration and licensing

Rationale

A deliberately wide 'long title' to enable the Bill to be amended after discussions with the Government, and our own consultation process.

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) officers report that they are often sidelined and have too little influence. They feel that this would help them.

Currently HECA officers spend much time reporting on progress but as there is no standard procedure both they and the DETR recognise that figures published are virtually meaningless.

Enables the SoS to nominate a minimum sum. Would help in those authorities that currently give scant attention to HECA.

Re 2 (3): Currently on the face of HECA there is no duty to achieve the targets. This would rectify that situation and take away criticisms that HECA is just a 'reporting exercise'. It would also take authorities out of the 'worst of all worlds' situation they are in at the moment – expected and cajoled to reach the targets but without a duty on the face of the Act - and the resources that would follow to enable this to be discharged.

Re Part 2: It is a Government priority to end fuel poverty. This Part would help in that important objective by ensuring that action is best co-ordinated HECA guidance requiring HECA reports to include action on fuel poverty, is a reporting exercise and does not ensure co-ordination of action between local authorities and the Government.

This Part needs considerable re-drafting. The current words simply indicate the thrust – i.e. a national licensing scheme to include energy efficiency requirements as well as fire safety, amenity and management requirements.

This is a Government Manifesto pledge. This Part would assist with

<p>(a) to maintain the premises to a satisfactory standard, by measures including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the provision of a standard of energy efficiency in the premises as prescribed by the regulations; and (ii) the carrying out of such improvements in respect of energy efficiency as the authority may prescribe within such a period as the authority may prescribe; and (iii) the provision of an approved energy rating on the property to every tenant in the property; and (iv) the provision of fire safety measures to a standard prescribed by the regulations and (v) the provision of such a number or standard of WCs, bathrooms and other amenities as prescribed by the regulations <p>(b) to establish and maintain a tenancy management scheme.</p> <p>(3) The regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) shall define the meaning of ‘approved energy rating’; and (b) may make such incidental, supplementary or consequential provision as the Secretary State considers expedient. <p>(4) Regulations made under this section shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Part 4 Miscellaneous</p> <p>5. In this Act</p> <p>‘energy conservation authority’ has the same meaning as in the Act of 1995</p> <p>‘house in multiple occupation’ has the meaning given by the Energy Conservation Act 1996;</p> <p>‘tenancy management scheme’ means a scheme setting minimum standards for the management and occupation of a house in multiple occupation.</p> <p>6. There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) any expenditure incurred by the Secretary of State in consequence of this Act; and (b) any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable out of money so provided by virtue of any other Act. <p>7. (1) This Act may be cited as the Home Energy Conservation Act 2001.</p> <p>(2) This Act extends to England and Wales only.</p>	<p>current policy objectives in 4 ways</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would help the Government deliver on that pledge 2. It is essential to enable the Government to succeed with its fuel poverty strategy by requiring private landlords to play their part in improving the housing stock. 3. It is essential to help energy conservation authorities achieve their HECA targets. Currently local authorities have few powers to require private landlords to insulate their properties. 4. It is essential to enable the UK to reach CO2 reduction targets both in the short (20% by 2010) and long term – Labour’s Manifesto recognized the importance of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution’s call for up to 60% reductions by 2050.
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