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Ariane Burgess MSP
Convener, Local Government, Housing and
Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

25th March 2024

Dear Ariane,

RE: Heat in Buildings Bill

Thank you for your letter of 26 February.

I fully appreciate the Committee's desire and its need for more clarity on next steps with a Heat in Buildings Bill, particularly with regard to your future work programme.

As you know, the First Minister confirmed to Parliament on 13 March that the Scottish Government will introduce a Heat In Buildings Bill when we are satisfied that its interventions will be able to decrease fuel poverty at the same time as they decarbonise homes and buildings.

Following that confirmation, and building on consideration and conversations within Government on the matter over recent months, I will set out our next steps with a Heat in Buildings Bill soon through a ministerial statement, subject to the agreement of Parliament. I will be happy to meet with the Committee following that statement to discuss those next steps in more detail.

In the meantime, we will continue with our delivery programmes and their investment in clean heat and energy efficiency. In 2025/26 we are investing £300 million through programmes such as Warmer Homes Scotland and Scotland's Heat Network Fund, providing financial support to increase energy efficiency and support the transition to clean heat for Scotland's building stock. This includes support for over 20,000 households to save up to £500 on their energy bills a year. We have allocated £1.63bn of funding through our Heat in Buildings schemes this Parliamentary Session, committing spend of over £575m for energy efficiency and clean heat projects.

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I look forward to our speaking again soon.

Yours sincerely,

ALASDAIR ALLAN

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