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31 March 2022

Dear Convener,

I am pleased to inform you that we have today laid in Parliament a copy of the first Heat Networks Delivery Plan, which fulfils Section 93 of the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021. The plan can be accessed at <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781804352366>

The plan outlines how the provisions of the 2021 Act, and any other supporting policies, will contribute to increasing the use of heat networks in Scotland. It sets out the proposed approach that the Scottish Ministers intend to take to increase the use of heat networks in Scotland and how the statutory targets will be met. The plan also outlines areas of further development including requirements on waste heat and mandatory connection, where this is within devolved competence. In addition, it outlines how progress will be measured and the expected contribution that heat networks will make toward meeting the emission reduction targets.

Over this parliamentary term we are investing at least £1.8 billion in heat and energy efficiency in buildings, including investing £400 million to support the development of large-scale heat infrastructure, such as heat networks. Our £300 million Heat Network Fund launched in February 2022 is part of this new suite of delivery schemes. Additionally, our recently announced £1 million Heat in Buildings Development Funding Invitation, which is a forerunner to our Heat Networks Support Unit, provides resource funding to stimulate and accelerate the development of a pipeline of zero emission heat projects for buildings across Scotland.

This plan has developed after taking into consideration views provided during a period of public consultation on the Draft Heat Networks Delivery Plan. Today we are also publishing the analysis of responses to that consultation. The report of the analysis of responses can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781804351918>.

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The plan will be reviewed within a 2 year period.

I look forward to working with Parliament to take forward key aspects of this Heat Networks Delivery Plan, notably implementing the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021 in order to secure and accelerate the deployment of heat networks in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,



**PATRICK HARVIE**

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