

Minister for Climate Action
Ministear airson Gnìomhachd na Gnàth-shìde
Alasdair Allan MSP
Alasdair Allan BPA



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Convener Edward Mountain
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
netzero.committee@parliament.scot

8 November 2024

Dear Edward,

I am sharing an update on the review of the New Build Heat Standard (NBHS) as members of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee have previously shown interest in the Standard.

The NBHS, as introduced under Standard 6.11 of The Building (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023, was originally heard by the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee on 12 September 2023 where no comments were made and the regulations were passed. The Standard, as introduced, prohibited the use of polluting heating (known as Direct Emissions Heating) in new buildings applying for a building warrant from 1 April 2024 and for certain conversions. The use of such systems was only permitted in emergency circumstances.

On 28 May 2024, the then Minister for Climate Action, Gillian Martin, announced a review of the Standard in response to concerns raised regarding the resilience of rural and island communities during periods of extreme weather and other events which may cause the failure of the main heating system, and therefore the reliance of those communities on alternative sources of fuel for heating.

I am very pleased to share with you that today we will be laying an SSI to amend the NBHS. This amendment will permit the use of bioenergy and peat heating systems in new buildings, in recognition of the concerns raised following the introduction of the NBHS in April 2024. All secondary heating systems will also be permitted.

I am grateful to any members of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee who have inputted into the review of the NBHS and look forward to engaging further on this topic.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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The NBHS remains a crucial piece of legislation to help tackle emissions in new buildings, preventing the need for retrofit in the future, and ensuring a cleaner and greener Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Alasdair Allan

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