

Mayor's Office

Victoria Borwick AM

Chair, Health and Public Services Committee
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Appendix 10

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Date:

26 APR 2012

Dear Victoria

Thank you for your letter of 19 March enclosing a copy of the London Assembly's Health and Public Services Committee Report, *In from the cold?* on tackling fuel poverty in London. I very much welcome your investigation into this important issue for London.

The GLA has allocated £3.3 million to continue the RE:NEW homes energy efficiency programme this financial year. To maximise levels of insulation by attracting remaining Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Warm Front funding, whilst simultaneously tackling fuel poverty, the intention is to focus the RE:NEW programme on areas with high levels of fuel poverty and uninsulated cavity walls where possible. It is also intended for the programme to provide a wider offer to all eligible fuel poor homes in London, including access to free insulation provided by energy companies.

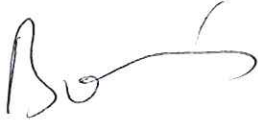
I particularly welcome the mapping tool you have developed with GLA Intelligence, and my officers intend to use this alongside housing stock data we previously commissioned from the Energy Saving Trust to target the RE:NEW programme.

As you may be aware, the independent Hills Fuel Poverty Review recently released a report which advocates a revised definition of fuel poverty. This definition takes account of higher living costs in London, something for which many of us have lobbied, but shows higher levels of fuel poverty in London than government estimates. Therefore, in addition to the RE:NEW programme and Know Your Rights campaign, the GLA continues to call on government to set regional targets for the forthcoming Energy Company Obligation (ECO) to ensure that London receives an equitable share of funding for tackling fuel poverty.

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Through the RE:NEW programme and my wider environmental programmes, there is potential for over £1.1 billion of savings for London. I look forward to your support and continuing our collaborative approach to make this happen for London.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris', written in a cursive style.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

Cc: Jo Sloman, Assistant Scrutiny Manager, GLA