

19 OCTOBER 2004

DP 737/03-07



**Edwina Hart AM MBE**  
*Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration*

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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24 November 2004

*Daw Mark*

You raised a point in plenary on 19 October 2004 regarding the Home Energy Conservation Act, and as this Act and domestic energy efficiency fall within my portfolio of responsibilities I am writing to respond.

The Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995 placed a responsibility on Local Authorities in Wales to produce strategies to achieve a 30% improvement in the energy efficiency. Authorities are also required to report annually to the Assembly Government on the improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in their area. I am disappointed at the lack of progress on HECA, and have raised concerns with Authorities about the importance they place on domestic energy efficiency on many occasions.

I believe that introducing a domestic energy efficiency target into the Policy Agreements for 2004-07 between the Assembly Government and Authorities is a very positive step. We have asked Authorities to put forward targets which at least double current progress on HECA. The Policy Agreements are mechanism for rewarding Authorities on the basis of progress against agreed targets. I believe that following the negotiation process, energy efficiency now enjoys a much higher profile within Authorities.



I am sure you will share with me in calling for all Authorities in Wales to make use effective use of their own resources, and access the considerable external resources available to achieve their Policy Agreement targets. For example, resources are available to landlords and individual households under the Assembly Government's Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES), and also from energy suppliers who have considerable resources available under their Energy Efficiency Commitment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John', followed by a horizontal line.