

Media Release – for immediate use – 25 September 2020

Existing Homes Alliance Scotland gives cautious welcome to infrastructure investment

The Existing Homes Alliance [1] welcomes the overall increase in infrastructure investment set out in the Scottish Government’s draft Infrastructure Investment Plan, which was published yesterday [2]. However, it remains unclear how much of this will go towards making our homes warm and affordable to heat.

Lori McElroy, Chair of the Existing Homes Alliance said, “Investing in energy efficiency now is essential if we are to make fuel poverty a thing of the past. Increasing unemployment and more people working from home could push an extra 136,000 households into fuel poverty [3], so we need to invest now.”

So far, an increase of £55 million has been promised for energy efficiency programmes over five years which the Existing Homes Alliance believes falls significantly short of what is needed.

Lori McElroy added “we believe we need an increase of at least £80m per year for domestic energy and fuel poverty programmes if we are serious about ending fuel poverty. Investing in energy efficiency is critical to delivering a fairer Scotland and must be at the heart of our green recovery.

Not only does it help us meet our emissions targets, but it supports the creation of a wellbeing economy by building local supply chains and creating skilled, green jobs.”

“We look forward to additional announcements later in the year with the publication of the Energy Efficient Scotland Route Map and hope that this will signal the significant scaling up that is required over the next decade.”

Ends

Notes

[1] The [Existing Homes Alliance](#) is a coalition of 10 founding member organisations and supporters representing housing, environment, anti-poverty and consumer groups arguing for greater investment in Scotland’s existing housing stock to make it fit for the 21st century.

[2] [A National Mission with Local Impact: Draft Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26](#), Scottish Government, September 24 2020

[3] [Experimental analysis of the impact of COVID19 on Fuel Poverty Rates](#), Scottish Government, September 2020

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