

26th February 2023

Dear Minister

Comments in the Sunday Telegraph - *Forcing households to replace boilers with heat pumps would be ‘against the British character*

I am emailing to seek urgent clarification of what is current government policy around heat pump installation. The need for clarification comes following comments attributed to you in the Sunday Telegraph (26.2.2023).

In the newspaper article you suggest, “*nobody’s going to be forced to ditch their boiler*” and to force “*households to replace gas boilers with heat pumps would be “against the British character”*”.

We agree with both of these statements. However, policy pursued by your department runs contrary to your expressed opinions. In the Heat and Building Strategy, and the off-gas grid consultation that followed, it was expressly clear that from 2026 fossil fuel boilers cannot be replaced. As part of the 600,000 annual target by 2028, for new heat pump installations, these off-gas grid appliance replacements form part of that target. Is it now government policy that after 2026 anyone who wants to replace their oil or LPG boiler will be free to do so – in keeping with your comments about not forcing people to ditch their boiler?

Similarly, for homes on the gas grid, that equivalent deadline is 2035. Are you now saying that after that date no household will be forced to give up their gas boiler when it needs replacing? To insist that a heat pump replaced a gas boiler would be “against the British character” as you suggested to the media. But that is not what current policy states. So has policy changed and if so, can you clarify exactly what is the policy towards decarbonisation of home heating?

Consumers and industry alike place real value on certainty and what they abhor is confusion. Following the newspaper reports this weekend, there is considerable confusion that needs clearing up.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mike Foster

CEO