

Housing, Regeneration and Welfare Directorate
Housing Sustainability and Innovative Finance Division

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In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World

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Dear Colleague

Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS): Area-Based Schemes 2015/16: Allocation of Needs-based Funding for Councils

I am pleased to write to you about your allocation for funding in 2015/16 for area-based schemes to tackle fuel poverty and improve the energy efficiency of Scotland's housing stock.

For the council-led area-based schemes, we have once again worked closely with COSLA to determine the distribution of this funding and I am pleased to advise your share of the funding available is £1,082,475. I would encourage you however not to limit the level of ambition you have to tackle fuel poverty in your area to this initial allocation. A further £12m is available for councils that are able to show they can spend more than their initial allocation and I sincerely hope you will develop proposals to take up some of this additional funding.

This funding is needs-based and reflects levels of fuel poverty and the prevalence of properties requiring insulation across the country. You will still need to work closely with the obligated utility companies to access available funding such as ECO as leverage is still an important element of our overall approach. And you will also need to work closely with all housing providers in your area to identify possible opportunities for use of HEEPS: ABS funding.

We are committed to a ten year programme of area based fuel poverty schemes and councils are a key delivery partner for us in this programme. This means being ambitious about what we can deliver in these timescales and developing large-scale schemes to tackle fuel poverty. We will shortly be sending the guidance and application forms to your nominated HEEPS:ABS officer. I look forward to hearing from you soon about the areas you have selected for area based programmes and your proposals for tackling fuel poverty. If you wish to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me at Andrew.Robinson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

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