

[name]

[address 1]

[address 2]

[address 3]

[address 4]

By email: [address]

[date]

Dear [name],

I am writing to inform you of my concerns regarding the plans set out in the government's new Heat and Buildings Strategy. Whilst I understand that the government must look towards the future of heating and is prioritising electrification using heat pumps, I'm personally worried about this plan.

As a heating technician I support action on climate change, but change must happen in a way that works for everyone and enables people such as myself to still be able to run a business and serve my community.

I visit numerous people's houses every week and have yet to experience more than a few that are immediately suitable for a heat pump installation. The Heat and Buildings Strategy states that over 80% of off-grid homes are heat pump ready, but as a rural heating technician with XX years of hands-on experience in the industry, I can say that I truly believe this number is not realistic.

Many of my customers will face higher capital costs and disruption, especially as they will be forced to convert to heat pumps before households that use gas heating, which seems very unfair.

I am also concerned about the impact on my own business. Offering heat pumps will involve time-consuming retraining and will mean that installations will often take longer, reducing the number of jobs my company can do. This will greatly increase costs without guaranteeing additional income. Diversifying also means I will need to carry a greater range of spares which, again, adds cost.

I feel that many of my customers with oil heating would benefit from more affordable alternatives to heat pumps. A renewable liquid fuel heating option such as hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) could be a much better all-around solution, as the typical cost to convert an existing oil-heated home is likely to be less than £500 and it offers an immediate 88% reduction in emissions. As this would ease the transition between their existing off-gas heating solution and converting to a heat pump over a longer time period, it is of no surprise that Heating industry research found an overwhelming 98% would be interested in this option. I would like the government to ensure this a viable option for those homes where a heat pump is not easily affordable.

Please support rural heating businesses and oil-heating consumers, by raising these issues with the government and, where a heat pump is not a suitable option, ask for more affordable options to decarbonise rural homes and businesses, including HVO.

Yours sincerely,