



Reference: EIR4081

Request:

I would like to make a freedom of information request in regard the Council's Statement of Intent for Flexible Energy as follows:

1. Please can you provide the latest version of your Statement of Intent for LA Flexible Eligibility
2. Please can you provide a list of all Registered Installers that are able to install Energy Company Obligation measures under the Council's Flexible Energy scheme determined by the Council in the Statement of Intent requested above

Response:

1. The Statement of Intent is currently under review, but current provisions are as follows:

Introduction North of Tyne describes the area covered by Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland local authorities.

It begins at its most southerly point, the River Tyne, and continues north to the border with Scotland, and spans from the North Sea on the east coast to the border with Cumbria in the west.

The area has a population of 880,000, a local economy of £17 billion, over 360,000 jobs and it is home to 23,000 businesses.

In the North of Tyne area there are more than 40,000 households living in fuel poverty. Local Authority Estimated number of households Estimated number of fuel poor households Proportion of household's fuel poor (%) Rank in North East (out of 12) Newcastle upon Tyne 121,192 15,782 13.0 2 Northumberland 143,347 15,883 11.1 10 North Tyneside 94,384 8,819 9.3 12 Total 359,923 40,484 11.3 North East average 11.8 England average 10.9 Statistics published June 2019 by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) indicator. Under the LIHC indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if:

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- they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level);
- were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line. There are 3 important elements in determining whether a household is fuel poor:
- household income;
- household energy requirements;
- fuel prices. As electricity and gas prices continue to rise at above inflation levels and household income does not keep pace, more residents will be at risk of falling into fuel poverty unless the causes are addressed. Fuel poverty affects the most vulnerable residents in our communities and can have adverse impacts on their well-being. Under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Regulations local authorities can set their own criteria for eligibility for funding for domestic energy efficiency measures, aimed at helping residents most likely to be in fuel poverty. The local authorities in the North of Tyne area have a long history of delivering practical programmes to help people to afford to heat their homes. Generally, this has been based on a three-pronged approach:
- improving the energy efficiency by offering cavity wall and loft insulation and central heating measures;
- supporting residents with energy efficiency and fuel debt advice, including income maximisation;
- offering schemes for switching to a cheaper energy supplier.

How the North of Tyne authorities intend to identify eligible households. Households are considered for Flexible Eligibility if they are:-

- at risk of living in fuel poverty;
- a low-income household, with at least one household member vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home. However, fitting the criteria within the Statement of Intent does not guarantee that any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements as the final decision on funding rests with the obligated energy suppliers and will depend on:
- the installation costs calculated;
- the energy savings that can be achieved for a property; and
- whether energy suppliers have achieved their prevailing ECO targets. In identifying households as eligible under Flexible Eligibility, local authorities are seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households to include them in a Declaration. Any obligated energy supplier,

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delivery partner or contractor referring customers for assistance or working on behalf of the authorities will be required to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), to fully follow Ofgem requirements for the ECO Help to Heat, and to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place. Any obligated energy supplier, delivery partner or contractor applying for the declaration will be required to retain the evidence to support the eligibility of the household for three years.

Identifying fuel poverty - Low Income High Cost (LIHC) Households will be considered at risk of fuel poverty if they are determined to be a low-income household, living in a high cost home in relation to energy use. Households need to meet the Low Income and the High Cost criteria, based on the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy, March 2015.

Criteria Eligibility Low Income * Gross household income <£26,000/year PIP and DLA are disregarded as income

Or

- In receipt of Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit

High Cost * Property EPC rating of D, E, F or G

Or

- Boiler broken or beyond economical repair

Identifying low income and vulnerability to cold (LIVC) Households need to meet the Low Income and the Vulnerable to Cold criteria, based on the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy, March 2015. This reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes. Criteria Eligibility Low Income * Gross household income <£26,000/year PIP and DLA are disregarded as income

Or

- In receipt of Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit

Vulnerable to Cold Health condition made worse by cold, including but not limited to:

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- respiratory illness (COPD, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, severe asthma)
- cardiovascular disease (heart disease & stroke)
- diabetes
- arthritis (osteo & rheumatoid)
- reduced mobility/risk of trips & falls
- cancer diagnosis
- terminal illness e.g. Motor Neurone Disease
- mental illness e.g. depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder

Or

- Vulnerable by age - elderly (aged over 70) or young (aged under 16) residents in the household

Subject to resources available within the authorities and the legal use of data, we will target those most in need having regard to BEIS guidance on targeting, including:-

- those households as identified in the private rented sector through enforcement activity under the Housing Act 2004 which are eligible under BEIS guidance;
- those households identified as in need by the council's referral partners and professional organisations.
- those properties identified through stock condition surveys in line with the requirements for property types set out in the BIES guidance.

Solid wall insulation "in-fill" projects Where potential works have been identified households will be supported to take advantage of "in-fill" projects where the minimum number of vulnerable households is met.

2. We have no formally registered installers.