

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP and Rt Hon Esther McVey MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

17th December 2019

Dear Secretary of State and Minister

I am writing to congratulate you on your re-election and your continuing roles as Secretary of State and Minister, and to re-introduce the organisation I represent. BEAMA Ltd is the UK Trade Association for manufacturers of electrotechnical products. We cover the supply chain for all electrical and related building infrastructure, from plugs and sockets to storage and heating and ventilation equipment, representing a total turnover of £12.6 billion.

Having recently published our commitment to the net-zero target¹our members are actively working with us to engage in the development of government policy and regulation that can help to drive the market forward for low carbon technologies, specifically for heat, ventilation and storage. We are also acutely aware of the need to continue our significant contribution to promoting electrical safety.

We work very closely with MHCLG and we are supportive of the recent action taken by the department in launching the review of Part L and F for new and existing buildings. We believe ambition on this work must be maintained and secure a clear regulatory framework outlined for our market to respond to.

Our industry needs action now to establish a stable and profitable manufacturing environment in the UK, based on the ambition of meeting net-zero by at the latest 2050. This is especially pertinent for the key technologies we know will be essential for the delivery of net-zero, including heat pumps, direct electric heating and storage.

¹ <http://www.beama.org.uk/resource-library/net-zero-by-design.html>

The follow actions are critical in the development of low carbon buildings of the future, and we ask that in continuing your role you help to drive these forward, working with industry.

1. **Transition UK homes to become ultra-efficient and use low carbon heat.** For our market to establish a supply chain to deliver these needs a clear plan and regulatory framework is needed. As part of this upholding the current proposals under the Future Homes Standard and Part L and F reviews for new homes is key, as is implementing the planned Regs on EV charging. However, it is vital that contrary to proposals under the current Building Regs consultation the Compliance Guide is retained as there is currently no adequate substitute and abandoning the Guide will lead to lower quality homes.

For existing buildings, as the future of low carbon gas is not yet certain, there needs to be a retrofit program in suitable homes across the UK to drive the uptake of low carbon heating solutions which are on the market today, including through improvements to Building Regulations for existing buildings.

2. **Make improving indoor air quality a government priority** - as homes become more airtight, through retrofitted energy efficiency measures and the building of more airtight energy efficient homes, the need for effective ventilation become ever more important.
3. **Continue work on improving electrical safety standards and regulatory enforcement in UK homes and across the industry** - our members support the need for enhanced regulatory enforcement in the market in all areas, but especially where non-compliant products may be entering the UK market. Improved electrical infrastructure will also facilitate improvements in energy use. We also expect that the legislation to introduce mandatory 5-yearly electrical inspections in private rented dwellings, as promised by former SoS James Brokenshire back in July 2018, will be brought forward at the earliest opportunity.

Government intervention is required in these areas, and in doing so our members will gain confidence in the UK market to make necessary changes to their business to meet net-zero as well as establish a prosperous UK supply chain. We have experience from previous retrofit and energy efficiency programs and acknowledge the scale of work required to meet net-zero and transition UK housing is unprecedented, and requires robust strategic planning with industry to deliver change at scale. We look forward to working with you going forward and hope to pick up on the issues raised here in a future meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard Porter'.

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BEAMA CEO

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