



RESEARCH PAPER 00/26  
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# *The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill* (Revised edition)

**Bill 16 of 1999-2000**

The *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill*, Bill 16 1999-2000, which is due for Second Reading on 10 March, is a Private Members' Bill sponsored by David Amess MP who came fifth in the Members' Ballot. It is designed to alleviate fuel poverty by providing domestic insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Donna Gore

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## Summary of main points

Two of the principal issues associated with the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill* are fuel poverty and energy efficiency measures aimed at conserving energy.

A household in fuel poverty is frequently defined as one in which more than 10% of income is spent on fuel to adequately heat the home. In England in 1996 an unacceptably high number of approximately 5 million households were in fuel poverty. The solution to the problem lies in the long-term improvement of housing stock. In the short-term the Government has addressed the issue with a range of palliative measures which are set out in the paper. Many of these involve energy efficiency measures with a view to energy conservation.

Energy conservation is a central part of Government policy to help meet the climate change targets agreed following the Kyoto Protocol. In the domestic sector principal initiatives include: the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) and its successor, New HEES in England (and equivalent schemes in Scotland, Wales and N Ireland); the *Home Energy Conservation Act 1995*; and property improvement programmes. Details of these are set out in the paper.

Besides Government initiatives, domestic energy efficiency measures have become a popular subject for Private Members' Bills. To give an idea of the range of proposals and the attitudes to them, all such bills presented during the last two sessions are reviewed along with details of their progress before Parliament. Of particular relevance is the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation (Fifteen Years Programme) Bill*, Bill 108 1997-98, and Bill 149 1998-99, which has a similar title to the Bill that is the subject of this paper. To follow these the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill*, Bill 16 1999-2000, is reviewed. Finally, statements by political parties about the subject of the Bill are presented.



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## I Fuel poverty

The main aim of the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill*, Bill 16 1999-2000, is to alleviate fuel poverty which is the inability to provide adequate heat and light for a home without spending a disproportionate fraction of income. Fuel poverty has recently become a topical issue which is reflected in the inclusion of substantial information about it in the *Energy Report* since 1998.<sup>1,2</sup> It has become a priority as part of the Government's campaign to tackle social exclusion in every aspect of society.

Fuel poverty can be described and presented in many ways but the commonly accepted definition is a household that would need to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to provide adequate heat and energy provision. The main causes have been identified as low income, energy inefficient housing and having to heat a larger property than is required. The principal effects are health related. Besides causing hypothermia, it is thought that cold homes exacerbate existing illnesses including asthma, and predispose occupants to respiratory infections. Vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, the sick and the disabled suffer from more illness. The effects, however, are not confined to the fuel poor themselves: finite health service resources are used to treat these preventable illnesses at the expense of the service as a whole, which could reduce the quality of service to others.

Using the definition above, in 1996 about one household in five in England was suffering from fuel poverty,<sup>3</sup> which amounted to approximately 5 million households. About one in twenty households were classed as being in severe or extreme fuel poverty, needing to spend over 20% and 30% of income respectively on fuel.<sup>4</sup> Comparative fuel poverty information for England in 1991 and 1996 is shown in table 1.<sup>5</sup>

Table 1 - Fuel poverty in England, 1991 and 1996

Year	Total no. of households	No. of households spending x% of income on fuel:-			No. of fuel poor households (and % of total)
		Under 10%	10-20%	Over 20%	
1991	19,111,000	12,482,000 (65.3%)	4,360,000 (22.8%)	2,270,000 (11.9%)	6,630,000 (34.7%)
1996	19,643,000	14,367,000 (73.2%)	4,092,000 (20.8%)	1,184,000 (6.0%)	5,276,000 (26.8%)

<sup>1</sup> DTI, *The Energy Report*, 1998

<sup>2</sup> DTI, *The Energy Report*, 1999

<sup>3</sup> this estimate includes housing costs in the calculation of household income

<sup>4</sup> ibid

<sup>5</sup> Taken from DETR, *Fuel Poverty: The New HEES-a programme for warmer, healthier homes*, May 1999, p 11

The figures indicate an overall fall between 1991 and 1996 in the percentage of households in fuel poverty resulting from reduced levels of extreme and severe fuel poverty. This appears to be mainly due to improvements in the economy, a reduction in fuel prices and higher income benefits. The figure of 5.276 million households in 1996, however, is still unacceptably high.

The scale of the problem is so great that a solution, which essentially requires a general improvement of housing standards, will take years. More immediately, there are measures which can be undertaken which will act quickly and have a palliative effect.

Since coming to power the Labour administration has taken a number of steps to address fuel poverty. These include:

- Liberalising the energy markets and the development of competition which has brought down energy prices;
- Reducing VAT on domestic fuel to 5% which cuts energy bills;
- Reducing VAT from 17.5% to 5% on energy efficient materials used in Government funded grant schemes such as the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) (see later);
- Increasing expenditure on HEES and equivalent programmes in Scotland and Wales;
- Making additional funds available for local authority housing capital improvements in 1999/2000 and 2001/2002;
- Introducing Winter Fuel Payments for over seven million pensioners to help with the payment of winter fuel bills; and
- Providing Cold Weather Payments towards heating expenses for vulnerable groups.

In addition, the Government has recently initiated an inter-ministerial group to examine fuel poverty. It is chaired jointly by the Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Helen Liddell, and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions, Lord Whitty. Its first meeting took place on 19 January 2000 when the terms of reference, objectives, and approved programme of work were agreed:

**The agreed terms of reference are:**

To take a strategic overview to ensure policies and new initiatives with a bearing on fuel poverty are co-ordinated across Government and integrated with the activities of relevant external bodies, such as the regulator and the energy industries.

**The Group's objective is:**

"To develop and publish a strategy setting out the Government's fuel poverty objectives, targets for achieving those objectives, the policies to deliver those objectives, and how progress should be monitored".



**The programme of work to take these forward was agreed as:**

To improve identification of the fuel poor.

To research the effect of changes in income, energy prices and energy efficiency on the number of fuel poor.

To identify the projected impact of existing and planned policies on the fuel poor.

To develop an understanding of the gap between the impact of existing and planned policies and fuel poverty objectives, and the policies and resources required to meet objectives.

To develop a comprehensive strategy, setting out Government fuel poverty objectives, policies to deliver them, and targets and timescales for those objectives.

To identify areas where further work is needed to ensure co-ordination of Government policy activity among the various different players, and setting up mechanisms to take this work forward.

To establish methods of developing indicators, monitoring progress, and evaluating outcomes.<sup>6</sup>

Finally, the *Utilities Bill*, Bill 49 1990-2000, which is currently before Parliament, contains measures to empower the energy regulator to draw up a social action plan which will be designed to help those in fuel poverty. Details are not yet finalised, but the Government has published draft statutory social and guidance to allow consultation with interested parties.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> HC Deb 27 January 2000, cc 294-95W

<sup>7</sup> DTI, *A Fair Deal for Consumers-Modernising the Framework for Utility Regulation-Draft Statutory Social and Environmental Guidance to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority: A consultation document from the Department of Trade and Industry*, February 2000

## II Energy efficiency

The central tenet of the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill 1999-2000* is to use energy efficiency measures to achieve its aims. The efficient use of energy is a key part of Government policy and is expected to play a significant role in meeting climate change targets following the Kyoto Protocol in November 1997. This subject was recently reviewed by the Environmental Audit Select Committee.<sup>8</sup> The Committee noted that the Government inherited numerous programmes designed to promote energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy. In the domestic sector Government policy focuses on three main programmes. These are:

- The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme which directly funds the provision of energy saving measures for low income households with the aim of alleviating fuel poverty;
- *The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995* which requires local authorities, which are housing authorities, to assess and report on energy conservation in their area with the aim of making a 30% improvement during the next ten to fifteen years; and
- Property improvement programmes.

Details of these, including funding, were set out in table 2, taken from the report:<sup>9</sup>

Table 2 – Energy efficiency programmes in the domestic sector

Programme	Objective	Funds (£)	Targets	Performance
Revised Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (New HEES)	<i>Domestic Sector (low income):</i> grant funding for energy efficiency improvements. New scheme will focus on private sector.	1999-02  375.3m	New target (1999): energy efficiency measures installed in one million homes by 2002.	Between 1991 and spring 1999: 3 million homes set to have received assistance  (Between 1991 and 1996 estimates of fuel poor homes have dropped by 2.3 million)
Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA)	<i>Domestic sector:</i> requirement for each housing authority to identify measures to achieve significant improvements in the energy efficiency of dwellings in its areas.	—	30% improvement from 1996 baseline by 2010.	At end March 1998: evidence pointed to 2-2.5% improvement on the 1996 baseline

<sup>8</sup> Environmental Audit Committee, *Energy Efficiency*, 20 July 1999, HC 159 1998-99

<sup>9</sup> *ibid*, p xxx

Programme	Objective	Funds (£)	Targets	Performance
Property improvement programmes <sup>10</sup>	<i>Domestic sector:</i> estimate of resources available and spent on energy efficiency dimension of housing improvement	1998-99 to 2000-01  in excess of £760m	_____	_____

The most recent initiative is contained in the *Utilities Bill*. This includes measures to give ministers powers to make regulations to promote energy efficiency in the gas and electricity sectors (clauses 79 and 58 respectively).

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<sup>10</sup> Elements of House Renovation Grants and Home Repair Assistance; Capital receipts initiative; LA social housing works; Comprehensive Spending Review allocation to housing; New deal for Communities; and Single Regeneration Budget. Ev p 234

### III The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

As mentioned above, a central part of Government strategy on domestic energy efficiency is the development of the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) which is designed to help the fuel poor.

Since energy efficiency is a devolved issue the position in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland differ and will be dealt with in turn.

#### A. England

As stated previously, HEES is the Government's main grant programme in England to provide energy efficiency measures in the homes of vulnerable people. Under present arrangements the main features are as follows:

100 per cent grants are given for home energy efficiency improvements for people in receipt of a qualifying income or disability benefit; while people not on benefit who are aged 60 or over qualify for a 25 per cent grant. The scheme offers one main improvement measure, chosen from loft insulation, cavity wall fill, draught proofing, or heating control upgrade, plus any of several supplementary measures (2 energy-efficient light bulbs, a hot water tank jacket, or energy advice). In terms of benefits provided under HEES:

Each household receiving a grant has benefited from a potential average reduction of £45 a year in fuel costs, or even more for those who have had loft insulation or cavity wall insulation installed;

Properties have gained an average of 4 SAP<sup>11</sup> points (because SAP is a logarithmic scale, the gain of an increase of this magnitude is proportionally greater the lower the starting point.)<sup>12</sup>

In May 1999 the Government published a review of HEES with a view to expanding the nature and range of improvements provided for properties under the Scheme. The main focus was households most vulnerable to cold-related illness.<sup>13</sup> At the Labour Party Conference on 29 September 1999 the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, John Prescott, announced the implementation of New HEES which is the outcome of the review. New HEES will come into operation from April 2000 with the first installations due in June. £260

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<sup>11</sup> The Standard Assessment Procedure rating system provides a measure of the energy efficiency of space and water heating in dwellings, on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 100 (excellent). It takes into account only those aspects of a dwelling which are fixed, such as the heating system, controls, insulation levels, double glazing, etc

<sup>12</sup> DTI, *The Energy Report*, 1999, pp 80-1

<sup>13</sup> DETR, *Fuel Poverty: The new HEES-a programme for warmer, healthier homes*, May 1999

million has been allocated to the programme for the first two years (including the final two months of the present scheme). During that time it is expected to help approximately 460,000 households, of which 280,000 will be occupied by people aged 60 or over. The main features of New HEES are set out in a press notice:

As well as insulation measures it will provide, for the first time, central heating systems for older people on low incomes

The scheme will operate at two levels -

**New HEES** - for households with children in receipt of an income-related benefit and people receiving a disability benefit. Some 4 million households will be eligible. The grant maximum for installing insulation and improving household heating will rise from the present £315 to £700 for households using mains gas, solid fuel, oil or off-peak electricity for heating.

For households using more expensive, on-peak electricity, bottled gas or paraffin for heating, the grant will rise from £315 to £1,000.

The package of measures will cut the fuel needed to heat the property by between £300 and £600 per annum.

**New HEES Plus** - for people aged 60 and over who receive an income-related benefit. Around 3.7 million households will be eligible. The measures include central heating systems for main living areas, provided through an operating lease. The maximum grant will be increased from the present £315 to £2,000.<sup>14</sup>

The two levels of operation are designed to recognise that people over 60 years of age who are living in fuel poverty are less likely to have a higher future income that would enable them to move out of it. They are also more likely to spend prolonged time at home. Such households will therefore be offered packages of insulation and heating tailored to their needs.

Many constituents are now enquiring whether they will qualify. This depends upon their exact circumstances. Further details are included on pp22-26 of the consultation document.<sup>15</sup> The consultation proposals have been implemented with very few changes and are the most authoritative source currently available. A copy of the consultation document is available free by telephone from 0870-1226236.

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<sup>14</sup> DETR press notice 99/947, *New Energy Efficiency Scheme to Provide Warmer, Healthier Homes for the Fuel Poor*, 29 September 1999

<sup>15</sup> DETR, *Fuel Poverty: The new HEES-a programme for warmer, healthier homes*, May 1999

## B. Scotland

From 1 July 1999 housing matters were devolved to the Scottish Parliament. Before that time HEES applied to Scotland. On 30 June 1999 the Scottish Housing Minister, Calum MacDonald, announced that an amended version of HEES would be introduced in Scotland from 1 July.<sup>16</sup> This scheme is referred to as the Warm Deal and effectively improves upon HEES in a number of ways. It was brought into effect by the *Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (Amendment)(Scotland) Regulations* SI 1999/1018. These allow an application for a grant to be made for more than one purpose (previously it had been restricted to one); increase the maximum amount payable for works from £315 to £500; and change the nature of the statement to be made in grant applications about previous grants relating to a dwelling. A Press Notice summarised the Warm Deal as follows:

- 1 From July 1, the Warm Deal will provide eligible households with a comprehensive £500 package of works, comprising: Cavity wall insulation or loft, tank and pipe insulation. Plus hot tank insulation; draught proofing; energy efficient light bulbs; and advice on energy use and conservation. 25,000 households will benefit annually.
- 2 When the new scheme is introduced the criteria for eligibility will be as they are for the current Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES), but there will be new arrangements to provide more assistance for pensioner households in receipt of income-related benefit and low income households in the private sector.
- 3 There will also be provision for repeat visits so that households which have already had HEES works carried out will be able to benefit from more works under the Warm Deal. (...)
- 4 The Warm Deal will be administered by the Energy Action Grants Agency Ltd (Eaga). The organisation will provide enquirers with general information about the Warm Deal and the names and addresses of all local registered installers. Eaga can be contacted by writing to: Eaga Freepost, SCO 4421, Edinburgh, EH6 0BR or by telephoning their freephone number: 0800-0720150.<sup>17</sup>

There is also a booklet available from the Scottish Executive about arrangements in Scotland entitled *Grants to keep your home warm and save energy*. Questions from the public are answered on its telephone helpline 0800-0720150 which is open 8:30am-5:30pm, Monday to Friday.

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<sup>16</sup> Scottish Office News Release 1381/99, *Fuel Poverty Tackled as £12m Warm Deal Comes on Stream*, 30 June 1999

<sup>17</sup> *ibid*

## C. Wales

At the moment the current version of HEES is in operation in Wales. The consultation on a new version of HEES for Wales was issued in July 1999 and proposals for it have recently been agreed by the Welsh Assembly. Details were announced in a press release.<sup>18</sup>

The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme for Wales will run initially for a two-year period, commencing on 1 June 2000, and with a total budget of £15.3 m (including £750,000 of funding for its security element,<sup>19</sup> £500,000 of which is being provided from the Home Office Crime Reduction Programme). A scheme manager is currently in the process of being appointed.

The scheme follows an earlier Home Energy Efficiency Scheme, which operated on a UK-wide basis from 1991 to May 2000. That scheme provided energy efficiency benefits in over three million UK homes, saving each one in average of £45 per annum in fuel costs. The new scheme builds on the achievements of the earlier scheme by:

- Concentrating on reaching people in the private rented and owner occupied sectors;
- Providing a broader and deeper range of energy efficiency measures, including heating systems; and
- Giving priority to those households most at risk, recognising the link between fuel poverty and ill health.

The scheme will be open to those people who receive qualifying benefits and will provide a range of energy measures, including: central heating systems, boiler replacement, draught proofing, loft and cavity wall insulation, water tank jackets, the provision of energy efficient light bulbs and general advice. In addition, for pensioners, an element of the scheme will provide basic crime prevention measures (window, locks, Bolts, chains, etc)

The scheme will cut across a number of the Assembly's priorities for development. It will act as a pilot for the 'Better Health Better Wales' Health Impact Assessments, as a means of assessing the impact of improved heating and insulation measures on health. It is also intended to ensure that the New Deal features in the scheme's administration. It will contribute to crime reduction and environmental considerations such as sustainable development and the reduction in the use of energy consumption through the provision of more efficient heating systems.

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<sup>18</sup> National Assembly for Wales Press Release W00145-Ho, *Peter Law Launches £15.3M Home Energy Efficiency Scheme*, 25 February 2000

<sup>19</sup> Crime prevention measures

Potential applicants can register their interest in the scheme by contacting:

Technical Services Branch  
Housing and Community Renewal Division  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

During the summer of 2000 the Welsh Assembly will take responsibility for energy efficiency in the home and final proposals will be issued. These will be implemented by secondary legislation.

#### **D. Northern Ireland**

The following information was provided by the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland about the province's equivalent of HEES which is called the Domestic Energy Efficiency Scheme (DEES):

The Department provides funding each year of £2.8m for DEES to install energy efficiency measures in the most needy households. DEES is aimed at those households who are in receipt of at least one of nine income or disability benefits. A full DEES grant provides loft insulation, draught proofing and advice on saving energy. A grant is available to those not on benefit but who are aged 60 or over throughout Northern Ireland. The Housing Executive oversees the scheme on the Department's behalf.

The scheme, administered by EAGA, began in Northern Ireland in January 1995 and to date some 85,000 customers have benefited from DEES.

The address of the Northern Ireland office of EAGA is EAGA Ltd, Dunree House, Thomas Street, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 1HN.



## IV Other domestic energy efficiency bills

Domestic energy efficiency has become a popular subject for Private Members' Bills. The following is a summary, in alphabetical order of title, of those presented in the 1997-98 and 1998-99 sessions. Of particular interest is the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation (Fifteen Year Programme) Bill*, Bill 108 1997-98, and Bill 149 1998-99, since this has a similar title to the Bill which is the subject of this paper.

### A. Session 1997-98

#### 1. *The Building Regulations (Energy Rating Information) (Amendment) Bill*

The *Building Regulations (Energy Rating Information) (Amendment) Bill* [HL], Bill 110 1997-98, was a similar measure to Julia Drown's *Energy Efficiency (Information) Bill* (see later). It was introduced into the Lords by Baroness Nicol after Ms Drown's Bill was withdrawn in an attempt to enact those parts of it that the Government would find acceptable.

The Bill received a First Reading on 30 April 1998.<sup>20</sup> During the Second Reading,<sup>21</sup> Baroness Nicol explained that the Bill was designed to require that the responsible person make the SAP rating (see footnote p 14) available to prospective occupiers of dwellings which were newly built or created by a material change of use. The features of the Bill were succinctly summarised by Baroness Farrington later in the debate:

...the Bill defines "responsible person" and requires that person to have a written notice of the SAP rating displayed in the dwelling for certain defined periods, given to the selling or letting agent at the time of instruction, and given to the purchaser or occupier. It would provide in the Building Act 1984 that evidence of having taken reasonable steps to comply with these requirements would be a defence against prosecution for failure to comply.<sup>22</sup>

This was to be achieved by means of two new paragraphs (3A&3B) inserted into the energy rating regulation (reg 14A) of the *Building Regulations* 1991, and inserting a new paragraph 4A into regulation 10A of the *Building (Approved Inspectors etc) Regulations* SI 1985/1387:<sup>23</sup>

New paragraph (3A) requires the energy rating to be, first, displayed in the building so that it can be easily seen by the prospective occupant; secondly, given to any agent who has been instructed to sell the home; and, thirdly, given to any prospective occupier.

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<sup>20</sup> HL Deb 30 April 1998 c 388

<sup>21</sup> HL Deb 1 June 1998 cc 83-87

<sup>22</sup> HL Deb 1 June 1998 c 86

<sup>23</sup> HL Deb 1 June 1998 c84

New paragraph (3B) specifies that the person on whom the duty is placed is the person carrying out the work or, if different, the person for whom the work is carried out. This is important as it puts the duty on the developer rather than on each individual builder.

Subsection (2) inserts identical new provisions in the Building (Approved Inspectors etc.) Regulations. This covers the situation where the role of building inspector is being carried out by an "approved inspector" rather than by a local authority inspector. Clause 2 provides a defence of "reasonable steps" having been taken to carry out the duties imposed by the Bill.

The Bill did not extend to Scotland and Northern Ireland because it would be unsuitable as the law is different there.

Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, speaking for the Government, went on to set out its objections and concluded that the Government could not support the Bill further:<sup>24</sup>

... we have some reservations. These have ultimately led us to conclude that the Government cannot support this Bill's further progress. We are concerned about the proposal to amend the primary legislation in this way because it might jeopardise the use of this defence against other alleged contraventions. We have misgivings about the proposal to define "the responsible person" for the specific purposes of this Bill, again because of the wider implications for the regulations of assigning responsibility for building work. We also think that there are drafting anomalies in the definitions of the proposed periods for displaying, or otherwise making available, the SAP rating that might make them impractical in some cases.

... We have a further important reservation. It is common practice for the Government, when proposing amendments to the building regulations, to subject them to wider consultation before finally deciding on how to proceed.

However, we, therefore, propose a different course. We propose to work with the Bill's promoters to resolve the difficulties that I have mentioned. Our intention will be to make amending regulations introducing new provisions into the building regulations. These will have similar aims of increasing accessibility to the SAP rating information. Following the appropriate consultation we would aim to make amendment regulations in the first half of next year.

I have listened to the debate so far and will listen to the further debate in your Lordships' House with interest, and as I have said, the Government will be receptive to further approaches on these matters. As I have also made clear, we believe that it would be unwise to proceed with this Bill.

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<sup>24</sup> HL Deb 1 June 1998 cc 86-87

Nevertheless the Bill was sent to Committee although no amendments were set down and the order of commitment was discharged.<sup>25</sup> A formal third reading occurred on 23 June<sup>26</sup> but the Bill fell at the end of session.

## 2. *The Energy Conservation (Housing) Bill*

The *Energy Conservation (Housing) Bill*, Bill 24 1997-98, was a Private Members' Bill sponsored by Clive Efford who came 18<sup>th</sup> in the Ballot. As such it was unlikely to be passed.

The Bill received its First Reading on 18 June 1997<sup>27</sup> and a formal Second Reading on 6 February 1998<sup>28</sup> at which it was sent to Standing Committee. The Bill extended the provisions of the *Home Energy Conservation Act 1995*. This Act required local authorities to draw up and act upon energy conservation reports on residential housing in their area. The Bill extended responsibility to housing associations (now called registered social landlords in England and Wales) when they were the owners of the property. Mr Efford's rationale was that such associations own a substantial proportion of the housing stock in some areas, they know their stock better than the local authority, and their involvement would ease the pressure on local authorities.

Mr Efford's Bill (amended in Committee to become Bill 161) also empowered the Housing Corporation to issue guidance to registered social landlords (RSLs) on energy efficiency measures. As the monitoring body, the Housing Corporation may already issue guidance to RSLs about their maintenance, management and other functions.

The amendments to the Bill were accepted in Committee, on 25 March without dissent.<sup>29</sup> Indeed, one Committee member (Mr Stephen Pound) said:

I echo the comments of the hon. Member for Worthing, West (Mr. Bottomley) in hoping that the Committee does not sit for long; I doubt that it will. It is an excellent Bill. I wish that all Bills were so well-drafted and so well-supported, and achieved such unanimity of cross-party backing.

The Bill received a formal report on 24 April 1998, but its third reading on the same day was objected to.<sup>30</sup> The Bill was dropped at the end of session.

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<sup>25</sup> HL Deb 15 June 1998 c 1293

<sup>26</sup> HL Deb 23 June 1998 c 120

<sup>27</sup> HC Deb 18 June 1997 c 348

<sup>28</sup> HC Deb 6 Feb 1998 c 1420

<sup>29</sup> HC Deb SC D 25 March 1998 c 1147

<sup>30</sup> HC Deb 24 April 1998 c 1147

### 3. **The Energy Efficiency Bill**

John Burnett came sixth in the Private Members' Ballot and sponsored the *Energy Efficiency Bill*, Bill 12 1997-98. This was modelled on a similar bill taken through the Lords by Lord Ezra in the 1996-97 session but which ran out of time in the Commons.

The Bill, which received a First Reading on 18 June 1997,<sup>31</sup> required mortgage lenders to provide borrowers with energy efficiency information about their prospective dwellings as part of their survey or valuation. Full details of the Bill and background to it are contained in Library research paper 98/21.

During the Second Reading debate<sup>32</sup> the Energy Efficiency Minister (Ms Angela Eagle) identified what she considered to be a number of problems with the Bill:

We support the Bill... but, as always in cases such as this, on condition that amendments are made.

Despite the drafting problems, the principle of the Bill is good. It is a short and sensible measure, which will make a practical contribution. Home buyers will be advised on how to save money by reducing their fuel bills, which will help them to make their mortgage payments. They will be able to make their homes more comfortable. The Bill will help us to protect the environment by implementing our climate change policies. Businesses installing energy-efficiency equipment, including small businesses, will benefit.

Indeed, the benefits of the Bill are such that more than 260 hon. Members from, I believe, every party in the House have supported an early-day motion on the same subject.

As I have said, there are drafting problems. Apart from the need to clarify details and to look closely at the definitions, we see four main problems. First, we want the Bill to contain a clause making it enforceable. Secondly, the form of energy advice to be offered will be dealt with in statutory guidance from the Secretary of State, and we see no need for the primary legislation to specify in detail what that guidance should include. We want to increase flexibility, and to allow advances in technology to be incorporated without further recourse to primary legislation.

Thirdly, we want the Bill to apply only to single dwellings used for owner-occupation. Fourthly, as drafted the Bill would be difficult to implement in Scotland, as my hon. Friend the Member for Blaydon (Mr. McWilliam) pointed out.

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<sup>31</sup> HC Deb 18 June 1997 c 345

<sup>32</sup> HC Deb 6 Feb 1998 cc 1345-1395

We are concerned that the Bill contains no sanction against mortgage lenders that do not provide a borrower with information about the energy efficiency of a dwelling. We need to discuss with the hon. Member for Torridge and West Devon how that will be dealt with in Committee, as there is little point in passing unenforceable legislation.<sup>33</sup>

In the event, all four clauses of Bill 12 were removed in Committee,<sup>34</sup> and replaced by nine others to form Bill 162. The changes made in Committee reflected the Government's concerns; for example, Bill 162 made no provision for Scotland. The type of dwelling covered by the Bill was restricted to a single dwelling because:

It would not be practical to apply the provisions of the Bill before us to a landlord's interest in properties which are let. Under existing landlord and tenant legislation, a surveyor instructed by a mortgage lender would almost certainly not have a right of access to tenanted property. Nor would it be sensible for the Bill to apply when the freehold of a leasehold house or block of flats is acquired by the leaseholders or a third party.<sup>35</sup>

Three of the new clauses (2,3,4) introduced exemptions from producing energy efficiency reports in cases where loans for home purchases were provided by a member of the borrower's family, or where a similar report had already been drawn up during the previous year. An exemption (clause 3) in the case of properties which were less than three years old was present in the earlier version of the Bill.

A major change to the Bill was brought about by clause 6, which provided for compensation in cases where a lender's failure to provide an energy efficiency report, as part of any qualifying survey, led to loss being sustained by the borrower. This would mean that the borrower could recover savings he would have made in implementing energy conservation measures reasonably expected to be identified in a report. The Secretary of State's guidance referred to in clause 2 of Bill 12 was to be made by statutory instrument (subject to annulment by either House of Parliament) in Bill 162.

Few reservations about the new Bill were expressed in Committee, and the (Government) changes were agreed to in a single sitting on 25 March. Two areas did, however, attract debate: the explicit removal of "energy ratings" from the Bill, and the restriction of the provisions to England and Wales (and to Northern Ireland via an Order in Council). The Government judged that applying the Bill to Scotland would introduce undesirable costs on account of the different home purchasing arrangements there (often involving the submission of multiple bids for home purchases). On the energy-rating question, one of the most high profile parts of the original Bill, the

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<sup>33</sup> HC Deb 6 Feb 1998 cc 1392-3

<sup>34</sup> HC Deb SC C 25 March 1998

<sup>35</sup> HC Deb 6 Feb 1998 c 1394

Government felt that primary legislation was too inflexible a means by which to introduce and define ratings.

The Bill made no further progress, presumably due to lack of parliamentary time. Subsequently a measure identical to Bill 162 was introduced in the Lords by Lord Ezra and received its First Reading on 29 July 1998.<sup>36</sup> This Bill, the *Energy Efficiency (No 2) Bill* [HL], Bill 151 1997-8, was probably introduced to speed the passage of the measure through both Houses should the Commons stages be completed in time. In the event Bill 162 was dropped and Bill 151 fell at the end of the session.

#### **4. The *Energy Efficiency (Information) Bill***

The *Energy Efficiency (Information) Bill*, Bill 105 1997-98, was presented under the Ten Minute Rule by Julia Drown. The First Reading<sup>37</sup> provided an opportunity to elaborate upon the purpose of this short Bill which was to "improve the gathering and provision of information on the energy efficiency of homes".

Although the practice of energy-rating dwellings as a means of indicating their energy-efficiency began some years ago, there were several unofficial rating systems with the result that it was difficult to judge one property against another. Following the recommendation of the Environment Select Committee Report<sup>38</sup> in 1993 that the Government establish a national home energy rating scheme, the standard assessment procedure or SAP rating was introduced:

[This] rated houses from 1, or highly energy-inefficient, to 100, or highly energy-efficient. To advance the cause of energy efficiency, the idea was incorporated into the 1994 building regulations, under which builders were required to produce a SAP rating for all new houses and for conversions which constituted a material change of use under planning law.<sup>39</sup> The intention was to ensure one standard rating and to make it available so that purchasers had information on the energy efficiency of a house before buying or renting.<sup>40</sup>

There were, however, two shortcomings in the 1994 regulations. The quality control on SAP ratings was not strict enough, and there was no requirement for prospective purchasers or tenants to be informed of the SAP rating. These issues were addressed in the First Reading:

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<sup>36</sup> HL Deb 29 July 1998 c 1509

<sup>37</sup> HC Deb 17 Dec 1997 cc 333-4

<sup>38</sup> Energy Efficiency in Buildings HC 648 1992-93

<sup>39</sup> The requirement for builders to calculate and inform the local authority of an SAP rating on newly built dwellings or those created by a material change of use was inserted as regulation 14A (commonly called the energy rating regulation) into the *Building Regulations* SI 1991/2768 by the *Building (Amendment) Regulations* SI 1994/1850

<sup>40</sup> HC Deb 17 Dec 1997 c 333

The effect of the first shortcoming has been expertly summed up by Professor Jake Chapman:

"The current situation is that many insulation manufacturers, boiler makers, heating designers and architects offer free SAP ratings to builders based on free and unchecked software. There is no quality control over the software or the data entered into the programmes. Most people using the system have not read the Government's published guidance notes that explain the conventions for assessing properties. As a result, building control officers do not have any confidence in the SAP rating being debated and have no reason to pursue the matter further."

The effect of the second shortcoming is that purchasers and tenants are often not told of the SAP rating. Professor Chapman added:

"Many builders would be ashamed if the low SAP ratings of their properties were publicised to customers. Currently the average SAP rating for new private houses is about 70. This compares with an average of 85 to 90 for housing association properties. This difference is created at very little additional cost."

The Bill sought to amend the building regulations to tighten control of the issuing of SAP ratings so that a person carrying out building work on a dwelling to which the energy rating regulation applied would be required to calculate it by the standard assessment procedure approved by the Secretary of State. In addition there was a requirement to notify the local authority of the SAP rating and take reasonable steps to ensure that it was included in promotional literature about the sale, exchange or letting of the building.

The second Reading was tabled for 30 January 1998, but the Bill was objected to and withdrawn.

##### **5. *The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation (Fifteen Year Programme) Bill***

Linda Gilroy sponsored the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation (Fifteen Year Programme) Bill*, Bill 108 1997-98, under SO No 57. It was modelled on the bill of the same name introduced by Alan Simpson in the 1996-97 session (Bill 132).

The Bill required the Secretary of State to "draw up and facilitate the carrying out, over a period of fifteen years, of a programme of action to provide at least 500,000 households per year with a comprehensive package of home insulation and other energy efficiency improvements". This included the installation of products manufactured for cavity wall, loft or underfloor insulation; insulation of hot water tanks, pipes or other plumbing fittings; draught proofing; controlling domestic heating systems; external and internal wall cladding; providing low emissivity glazing; and other goods sanctioned by the Secretary of State to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation.

In support of the Bill Alan Simpson initiated an EDM which set out further implications of it. The EDM:

acknowledges that such a programme is designed to end fuel poverty<sup>41</sup> in the United Kingdom; recognises that it would benefit the environment and create jobs; notes that the Bill does not create powers of entry in private homes; further notes that it does not involve compelling private individuals to carry out works, but rather relies on persuasion and promotion.<sup>42</sup>

A formal First Reading took place on 14 January 1998.<sup>43</sup> A Second Reading was due on 6 February, but was objected to. The Bill fell at the end of the session.

## **B. Session 1998-99**

### **1. The *Energy Conservation (Housing) Bill***

The *Energy Conservation (Housing) Bill*, Bill 33 1998-99, was reintroduced by Clive Efford under SO No 57 and received its First Reading on 18 January 1999.<sup>44</sup> It received a two-minute Second Reading on 30 April 1999.<sup>45</sup> During this Clive Efford explained that this Bill was identical to the Bill (as amended in Committee) he sponsored in the previous session. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Alan Meale, assured him that the Government fully supported the Bill. In the minute that remained, Eric Forth began a contribution, contrasting the Bill to one that had been "debated carefully", receiving "a proper hearing in Committee and on Report". With the debate adjourned, the Bill fell at the end of session.

### **2. The *Energy Efficiency Bill***

The *Energy Efficiency Bill*, Bill 32 1998-99, was also reintroduced under SO no 57 by Clive Efford. It received its First Reading on 18 January 1999.<sup>46</sup> The new Bill was in the form of its amended version after going through Committee in the previous session. In another two-minute Second Reading Mr Efford was quick to point to the support it had received both within and outside the House. David Maclean agreed that it was an important measure, but argued that it needed to be "considered again" that day.<sup>47</sup> Subsequently the Bill fell at the end of session.

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<sup>41</sup> Fuel poverty is defined in the Bill to mean "the inability to afford adequate warmth because of the inadequate energy efficiency of the home"

<sup>42</sup> EDM 80 of 1997-1998

<sup>43</sup> HC Deb 14 Jan 1998 c 366

<sup>44</sup> HC Deb 18 January 1999 c 579

<sup>45</sup> HC Deb 30 April 1999 c 671

<sup>46</sup> HC Deb 18 January 1999 c 579

<sup>47</sup> HC Deb 26 February 1999 c 711



### 3. **The Energy Savings Materials (VAT Relief) Bill**

The *Energy Savings Materials (VAT Relief) Bill*, Bill 68 1998-99, was sponsored by Alan Simpson under SO No 57. It received a First Reading on 18 March 1999.<sup>48</sup> As mentioned above, one of the Government's initiatives to alleviate fuel poverty was a reduction of VAT from 17.5% to 5% on energy efficient materials used in Government funded grant schemes such as HEES. This Bill was designed to extend this VAT relief to other energy saving materials, and to require reports to be prepared and presented to Parliament on various aspects of European Union law in relation to VAT on energy saving materials which prohibits such an extension.<sup>49</sup> This Bill was dropped.

### 4. **The Fuel Poverty and Energy Conservation Bill**

The *Fuel Poverty and Energy Conservation Bill*, Bill 31 1998-99, was introduced by John McAllion who came 20<sup>th</sup> in the Private Members' Ballot. The Bill required energy conservation authorities (as designated for the purposes of the *Home Energy Conservation Act 1995*) to designate officers with responsibility for energy conservation. It also required them to include in their energy conservation reports information about the extent and nature of fuel poverty in their area, proposals for its eradication, and an assessment of the effectiveness of measures already taken. The Bill received a First Reading on 13 January 1999.<sup>50</sup> Further information about Mr McAllion's aims were presented in a review of Private Members' Ballot Bills for the session published in the House Magazine:

My interest in this bill comes from my concern that everyone in this country has the right to decent, warm, affordable housing.

I believe that my bill could go some way to saving the government money. The NHS spends over £1 billion treating cold related illnesses. Through energy conservation this money could be saved and the poorest in society could also save on their fuel bills.

I want to eradicate fuel poverty. By introducing energy saving measures I believe that the poor will be able to heat their homes. I want people to have no fears about putting heating on. I want people to be able to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost.

The bill requires local authorities to include strategies for ending fuel poverty in their work under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, an act which I sponsored. Local authorities would also appoint a statutory officer with

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<sup>48</sup> HC Deb 18 March 1999 c 1274

<sup>49</sup> HC Deb 21 December 1999 cc 581-82 W

<sup>50</sup> HC Deb 13 January 1999 c 310

responsibility for carrying out their energy conservation and anti-fuel poverty strategies.

Overall this bill aims to conserve energy and prevent fuel poverty through simple practical measures, like insulation, and by providing education and information about energy conservation.<sup>51</sup>

It transpired that there was no need to enact legislation to give effect to these measures, and consequently the Bill was withdrawn.<sup>52</sup>

## 5. **The *Health Care and Energy Efficiency Bill***

Sir Robert Smith, who came 13<sup>th</sup> in the Private Members Ballot, sponsored the *Health Care and Energy Efficiency Bill*, Bill 24 1998-99. The Bill received its First Reading on 13 January 1999.<sup>53</sup> The Bill required certain health bodies to draw up reports on ways that they might use energy efficiency schemes to help people in fuel poverty to heat their homes. Further details about the aims of the Bill were published in the House Magazine:

The bill aims to tackle ill health caused by poor housing conditions and fuel poverty. It would require health bodies to produce an annual report on the benefits and practicality of a health care and energy efficiency scheme in their area. It would also encourage health bodies to set up schemes to fund energy efficiency measures.

We have learnt that prevention is better than cure when it comes to illness related to smoking and nutrition, but not for cold related illness. At present it costs the NHS around £1 billion every year to treat cold related illness. In Scotland alone, there are almost 4,000 more deaths in the winter months than at other times of the year.

The provisions of this bill would help reduce both that death toll and the cost to the NHS of cold-related illnesses, by allowing health bodies to be pro-active in this area. For example, it would make it possible for local GPs to identify patients whose health would benefit from home insulation, and prescribe accordingly.<sup>54</sup>

The Second Reading took place on 23 April 1999,<sup>55</sup> but the Minister was still speaking when the debate was adjourned; the Bill fell at the end of session.

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<sup>51</sup> *House Magazine* 25 January 1999 p 19

<sup>52</sup> Communication with official at DETR

<sup>53</sup> HC Deb 13 January 1999 c 309

<sup>54</sup> *House Magazine*, 25 January 1999, p 17

<sup>55</sup> HC Deb 23 April 1999 cc 1203-1209

## **6. The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation (Fifteen Year Programme) Bill**

Linda Gilroy sponsored the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation (Fifteen Year Programme) Bill*, Bill 149 1998-99, under SO No 57. It was modelled on the Bill of the same name introduced by her in the 1997-98 session and contained the same measures. The Bill was introduced late in the session, receiving a First Reading on 27 July 1999,<sup>56</sup> and was dropped.

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<sup>56</sup> HC Deb 27 July 1999 c 152

## **V The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill 1999-2000**

David Amess came fifth in the ballot for Private Members' Bills in the 1999-2000 session. He chose to sponsor the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill*, Bill 16 1999-2000, which is modelled on bills of a similar name presented in the previous two sessions. The Bill had its First Reading on 15 December 1999:

### **Warm Homes and Energy Conservation**

Mr. David Amess, supported by Mr. David Atkinson, Mr. Simon Burns, Mr. David Chaytor, Mr. Michael Colvin, Mr. Cynog Dafis, Mrs. Linda Gilroy, Ms Jenny Jones, Mr. Alan Simpson, Rev. Martin Smyth, Sir Teddy Taylor and Mr. Paul Tyler, presented a Bill to require the Secretary of State to draw up and facilitate the carrying out of a programme of action to provide households with a comprehensive package of home insulation, heating and other energy efficiency improvements for the purpose of reducing fuel poverty; to require the setting of targets for the achievement of that programme; and for connected purposes: And the same was read the First time; and ordered to be read a Second time on Friday 10 March, and to be printed.<sup>57</sup>

Further information about the rationale for the Bill were published in an article by David Amess in the House Magazine:

Over the Christmas holiday, *The Independent* reported that the number of "excess winter deaths"<sup>58</sup> rose last year to 49,000, the highest in 10 years. The major reason for this? In Britain some 10 million people struggle to heat their homes each winter because the heat "leaks" away through draughty windows and poor insulation. Evidence from overseas shows that this increase is preventable; winters in Norway and Sweden are much colder, yet their winter death rate has only increased by a third of that in Britain.

The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill requires the drawing up and implementation of a solution to this problem. This would end "fuel poverty"<sup>59</sup> by fitting decent insulation, and where necessary, an efficient heating system, to all affected homes. Such a scheme will have many benefits. Firstly it would dramatically cut the illnesses and deaths caused by cold, damp homes - saving the NHS £1 billion a year. Secondly the home improvements would generate almost 30,000 new jobs. Finally, government research suggests it could save £1.25 billion a year in the management and maintenance of public sector housing. At this year's Labour conference, the Prime Minister himself admitted that the number of elderly people shivering in winter kept him awake

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<sup>57</sup> HC Deb 15 December 1999 c 281

<sup>58</sup> The additional deaths that occur in winter as compared to the rest of the year

<sup>59</sup> Where people need to pay over 10 per cent of their disposable income to keep warm

at night. Other ministers have called fuel poverty an "obscenity" and a "preventable scourge".

The bill has already gained phenomenal support. Over 350 MPs have signed the various early day motions and hundreds of organisations (from Help the Aged to the Women's Institute and the National Asthma Campaign) are determined to end the scandalous problem of fuel poverty. The bill starts with a wealth of goodwill behind it. I look forward to working with the bill's many supporters to make sure that it becomes law.<sup>60</sup>

The Bill, unlike its predecessors, does not require the Secretary of State to implement a 15-year programme to provide 500,000 households annually with home insulation, heating and other energy efficiency improvements, but instead requires "the appropriate authority" to set up a programme of action with targets to provide the same measures with the aim of reducing fuel poverty. Reflecting devolved powers the Bill only relates to England and Wales (**clause 6**), whereas its predecessors applied to the whole UK.

**Clause 1** defines terms used in the Bill. The "appropriate authority" is the Secretary of State for England and the National Assembly for Wales. Predecessor bills contained a list of products considered to be elements of a "comprehensive package of home insulation and other energy efficiency measures". In the Bill this list is omitted leaving only the general statement to include "products that the appropriate authority is satisfied the sole or a major purpose is the improvement of energy efficiency in buildings". Fuel poverty is defined in general terms as "the inability of a household to keep warm at reasonable cost".

**Clause 2** contains major differences to predecessor bills and links with the objectives and programme of work of the recently established inter-ministerial group on fuel poverty (see pp 8&9). **Sub-clause 2(1)** requires the appropriate authority to prepare and publish a report containing a strategy and targets to alleviate fuel poverty within a year of the Act coming into force. **Sub-clause 2(2)** sets out what the strategy shall include: a description of households to which it applies (**sub-clause 2(2)(d)**); and measures deemed necessary to alleviate fuel poverty (**sub-clauses 2(2)(a)&(c)**). A new power is included to ensure that households in fuel poverty have open to them fuel tariffs that encourage energy efficiency (**sub-clause 2(2)(b)**). Falling fuel tariffs as a result of competition in open energy markets have been criticised for encouraging increased fuel use rather than energy efficiency and conservation. This power is designed to address the issue and could take the form of a further reduction in tariff for households that avail themselves of appropriate energy efficiency measures, although more sophisticated tariffs would be possible. The necessary arrangements with the energy utilities could be brokered by the energy regulator in powers planned for him

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<sup>60</sup> *House Magazine*, 31 January 1999, p 12

under the *Utilities Bill* which is currently before Parliament (see also sub-clause 2(4) below).

**Clause 2(3)** specifies that the strategy shall include “reasonably practical” interim and final target dates for the eradication of fuel poverty. There is scope to amend these targets and the strategy at a future date (**sub-clause 2(7)**). This is a more flexible approach than adopted in predecessor bills that required at least 500,000 homes annually to be provided with measures over a 15-year period.

In preparing its report the appropriate authority shall consult representatives of local authorities, utility regulators, persons in fuel poverty and others it thinks fit (**sub-clause 2(4)**). The appropriate authority is required to act upon the strategy and targets set out in its report (**sub-clause 2(5)**), and assess progress towards achieving these and present them to Parliament (**sub-clause 2(6)**).

Unlike predecessor bills clause 2 of the Bill does not contain specific links to the *Home Energy Conservation Act 1995* or reports drawn up under it. It does not require reports to be debated by Parliament and amended in the light of them. It omits specific mention that reports may include energy ratings for houses sold or let, and initiatives aimed at the private rented sector, although these could be included if the appropriate authority thinks fit.

Clauses 3-6 are similar to those in predecessor bills.

**Sub-clause 3(1)** confers powers on appropriate authorities to make regulations by statutory instrument. Those made by the Secretary of State may be annulled by either House of Parliament (**sub-clause 3(2)**).

**Clause 4** clarifies the powers that are *not* granted by the Act. The Bill does not confer powers of entry to property (**sub-clause 4(a)**), a requirement for anyone to carry out work (**sub-clause 4(b)**), or a requirement for anyone to leave their home. **Sub-clause 4(d)** states that Building Regulations will apply to any work undertaken.

**Clause 5** provides for Parliament to pay expenses related to the Act.

**Clause 6** states the short title as the *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000*.

## VI Statements by political parties

As mentioned above, this Bill enjoys widespread, all-party, support illustrated by over 350 MPs having signed various Early Day Motions in support of the aims of the Bill and its predecessors. The following additional statements are extracts from material provided by Friends of the Earth (FoE) which has run a campaign to support the measures in the Bill.

### A. Labour Government statements

“The Government’s objective is to end fuel poverty”- Alan Meale MP, (then) Minister for Energy Efficiency.<sup>61</sup>

“An inter-ministerial group is being set up to examine the way ahead on fuel poverty. (It will) develop a more accurate picture of the extent of the problem; so that a target date can be set for the elimination of fuel poverty”- Michael Meacher MP, Environment Minister.<sup>62</sup> This initiative was taken forward when the first meeting of the group took place on 19 January 2000 when the terms of reference, objectives, and approved programme of work were agreed (see pp 8&9).

“One of the obscenities of the 1980s was the failure to tackle the problem of keeping our elderly people warm in winter”- John Prescott MP, Deputy Prime Minister.<sup>63</sup>

“The preventable scourge of fuel poverty still remains an indictable menace in our society”- Michael Meacher MP.<sup>64</sup>

“It is shameful and unacceptable that five million families are struggling to afford to heat their homes”- Helen Liddell MP, Energy Minister.<sup>65</sup>

“We want to develop a coherent strategy to eradicate fuel poverty”- Angela Eagle MP, (then) Minister for Energy Efficiency.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> Local Energy Advisory Centres (LEAC) Conference, Keele, 6 July 1999

<sup>62</sup> HC Deb 25 November 1999 c 210W

<sup>63</sup> DETR press notice 99/947, *New Energy Efficiency Scheme to Provide Warmer, Healthier Homes for the Fuel Poor*, 29 September 1999

<sup>64</sup> NEA (formerly Neighbourhood Energy Action) Conference, York, 14 September 1999

<sup>65</sup> DTI press notice 99/969, *Warm Homes Week: Liddell Turns the Heat on Power Companies*, 26 November 1999

<sup>66</sup> DETR press notice 3666/ENV, *End the Disgrace of Fuel Poverty-Eagle*, 14 May 1998

## **B. Conservative statements**

“The Conservative Party supports this Bill”- Bernard Jenkin MP, Shadow DETR Minister.<sup>67</sup>

“I do support your campaign”- Andrew Lansley MP, Shadow Minister for Policy.<sup>68</sup>

## **C. Liberal Democrat statements**

“This Bill is crucial for our social justice and environmental agenda. If the Government does not support it they will stand condemned on both counts”.<sup>69</sup>

“This Bill is a highly important social justice and environmental measure facing Parliament. It must become law”- Don Foster MP, Liberal Democrat Environmental and Social Justice Spokesperson.<sup>70</sup>

“Liberal Democrats have been at the forefront of this Campaign: now we can help win it”- Matthew Taylor MP, Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesperson.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Letter to FoE Campaign, 16 April 1999

<sup>68</sup> Letter to FoE Campaign, 2 February 1999

<sup>69</sup> Liberal Democrat spokesperson statement to FoE Campaign, 1 October 1999

<sup>70</sup> Statement to FoE Campaign, 1 January 2000

<sup>71</sup> Statement to FoE Campaign, 1 January 2000