



Ein cyf/Our ref: FM/Q/54213

Neil McEvoy
Neil.mcevoy@assembly.wales

9 August 2019

Dear Neil,

I am writing following your question to me on 9 July during First Minister's questions, asking for an update on the delivery of the Arbed Scheme in South Wales Central.

Your supplementary question made assertions about the cost of providing low energy light bulbs, water aerators and central heating boilers under the contract awarded in 2018 to deliver this area based Scheme as part of our Warm Homes Programme. Specifically you quoted £245 for 'soft' lighting measures, in effect, changing light bulbs and £124 for fitting water efficiency measures, as you described as fitting an aerator into a tap. You further stated the Scheme manager was changing new boilers with less energy-efficient boilers. I have sought clarification from Arbed Am Byth in relation to these allegations.

It is now clear to me that the costs you quoted do not relate to single products supplied and fitted. These are costs delivered as part of a whole package of home energy efficiency measures provided to improve the energy efficiency of the home. Where lighting is concerned, we would expect low energy lighting to be fitted to not less than 80% of all fixed outlets in habitable rooms in the home.

Similarly, for water saving devices to have the impact on energy efficiency, measures must be fitted to all hot water taps and shower heads not 'screwing an aerator into a tap' as you alleged. If you have any actual evidence to the contrary, you should provide it to Arbed am Byth, because this would be a direct abuse of the scheme. Furthermore central heating boilers provided under the Scheme are required to deliver improved energy efficiency and as such, less efficient boilers should not be provided under any circumstances.

Given the significance of the criticisms raised on the floor of the Assembly, I am passing a copy of this letter to the library, so that the corrected information can be available to all Members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

MARK DRAKEFORD