

Dr. Sarah Wollaston M.P.

Member of Parliament for Totnes



House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

SW/ns

4th February 2013

Cllr David Thomas
Deputy Mayor

Letter by email: David.Thomas@torbay.gov.uk

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Dear David,

Thank you very much for taking the time to contact me with regard to the motion that is being put in front of the council.

The Energy Bill Revolution Campaign and related EDM 47 are both contrary to government policy. I appreciate the idea of recycling revenues from carbon taxes into improving the energy efficiency of UK homes, however I do not think it is likely to occur at this time.

I do think that energy efficiency can make a real contribution to cutting the UK's carbon emissions and helping consumers with their energy bills. It is therefore good news that the Government published the first comprehensive National Energy Efficiency Strategy last year. This Strategy sets out the additional steps the Government will be taking to stimulate the energy efficiency market, connecting finance with demand, encouraging innovation and making energy efficiency information more accessible to the consumer.

The new Green Deal – the government's flagship policy around energy efficiency - will revolutionise energy efficiency in the UK by offering households upfront finance to make energy efficiency improvements, paid for by energy bill savings. This scheme will provide extra financial help for the most vulnerable through an Energy Company Obligation (ECO), worth £1.3 billion, which will assist around 230,000 low income households a year.

Alongside this, the Government's Warm Home Discount Scheme will provide over 2 million households, including over 600,000 vulnerable pensioners, with a £120 discount on their electricity bills. In addition, Ministers are maintaining the spending on Winter Fuel Payments, spending £2.1 billion this winter. Cold weather payments have been permanently increased from £8.50 to £25, helping the most vulnerable when extremely cold weather strikes.

Email: sarah.wollaston.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.drSarah.org.uk

Twitter: @drwollastonmp

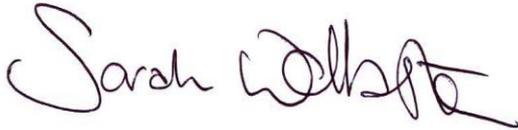
Parliamentary Office:
Tel : 0207 219 4064
Fax: 0207 219 5019

Constituency office:
Station Road, Totnes TQ9 5HW
Tel: 01803 868378

Energy policies are already benefitting from direct funding from the Exchequer, including £860 million for the Renewable Heat Incentive to help those who are off the gas grid and £200 million in incentives for early take up of the Green Deal start up.

I do hope you find this information of use and that this clarifies the matter.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Wollaston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP

Email: sarah.wollaston.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.drsarah.org.uk
Twitter: [@drwollastonmp](https://twitter.com/drwollastonmp)

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