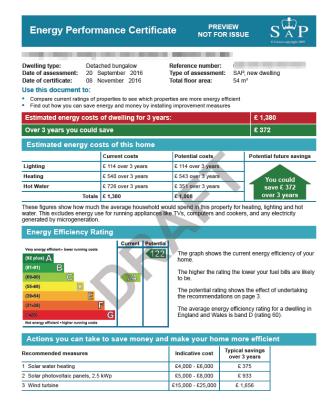


## National Trust and MEES

- Working towards MEES since 2015
- 5000 residential let estate, MEES applies to roughly half our estate
- Own internal standards with a minimum bronze standard = compliance
- Most properties are off mains gas
- Approximately 500 properties affected by backstop date
- Huge investment to understand and manage





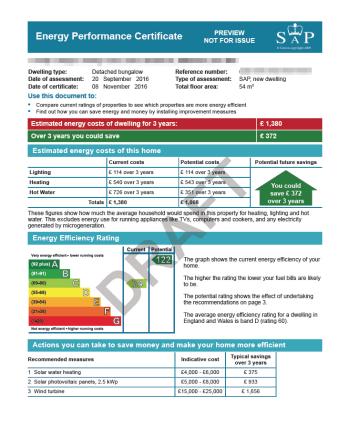


# Why do we have this problem?

## **Challenges in Selecting Measures**

- Difficulty in identifying the range of energy measures and what SAP score they give.
- Over reliance on DEA's who have limited knowledge of detailed energy measures, buildings and practicality/cost.
- Some properties have not been able to allocate sufficient funds/staff to address the challenge.



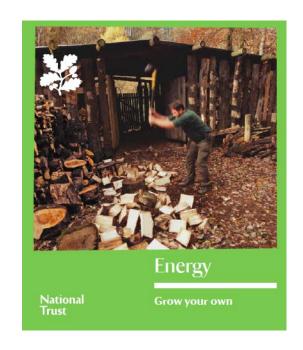




# Why do we have this problem?

## **Internal Challenges**

- A lack of appreciation historically that this is a compliance issue.
- A lack of awareness and understanding of MEES
- Trust policy to get properties off oil has been a challenge – in some cases cost effective replacement systems (e.g. LPG) have caused EPC scores to drop.



We intend to reduce our use of fossil fuels for heat and electricity by 50% by 2020.

### We will do this by:

- Conserving energy
- Growing our own electricity and heat
- Getting off oil
- Energy inspiration



# Why do we have this problem?

## **External Challenges**

- Legislation is complicated with conflicting guidance
- Limitations in RdSAP methodology (basis of EPC's) can give inconsistencies in EPC's.
- DEA's tend to be independent workers and vary in their professionalism.



Energy Efficiency Rating

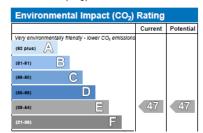
Current Potential

Very energy efficient - lower running costs
(92 plus) A

(81-91) B

(8-9-90) C

(66-81) D

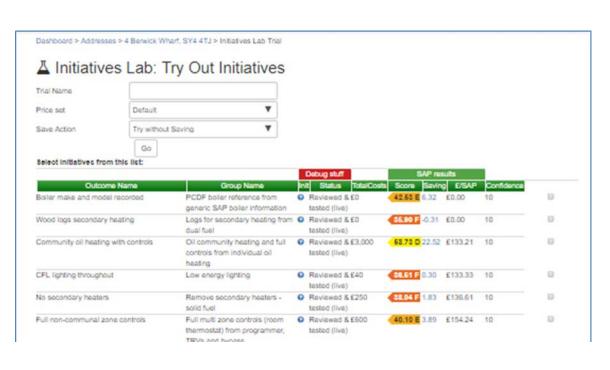






# How do we address this?

1. Help NT personnel identify the range of EPC measures and potential cost/benefits of each more easily.







## How do we address this?

2. Improve guidance on what the NT deems reasonable in relation to cost, use of oil systems, and managing impact on sensitive and listed building.



Domestic Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards Consultation (PRS MEES)

Tamara Dimova and Stephen Ryman





# How do we address this?

## 3. Identify when Listed Buildings can be excluded from MEES and how this can be done.

### Listed Buildings and exemption from Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)

isted buildings have in the past been exempt from the need for an EPC at the point of sale or letting. However, from 1 April 2018 the situation is changing and landlords and sellers need to be aware of impending changes.

Unfortunately the regulations which determine the need for EPCs in England and Wales is far from clear:

When the regulations were enacted in January 2013, it was widely accepted that listed buildings were exempt from the requirement for an EPC for selling or letting. An EPC was required in other circumstances (such as to be eligible for Green Deal or the government's minimum energy efficiency requirements Feed in Tariff). The wording in the April 2014 Department for Communities and Local Government regulations is taken directly from heading of Situations where an EPC is not

"An EPC is generally not required where the seller or landlord can demonstrate that the building is... officially protected as part of a designated environment or because of their special architectural or historical merit where compliance with certain minimum energy efficiency requirements would unacceptably alter their character or appearance."

"An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) exemptions for certain types of building and since January 2013 listed buildings have been exempted from the need to have an EPC."

More recently, in February 2017, the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (the department which now has sibility for EPCs) issued Guidance for landfords and enforcement authorities on the minimum level of energy efficiency required to let non-domestic property under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015. It states that:

notes that an EPC is generally not required where the landlord (or the seller, if relevant) can demonstrate that the building is any of the following: a building that is officially protected as part of a designated environment or because of their special architectural or or appearance."

#### However, on page 19 under the heading 'Listed Buildings and EPC Compliance' it

relating to listed buildings and whether they are exempt from the requirement to obtain an EPC. Listed properties, and buildings within a conservation area, will not necessarily be exempt from the requirement to have a valid EPC and it will be up to the owner of a listed building to understand whether or not their property is required to have an EPC. Where a listed privately rented non-domestic property, or a property within a conservation area, is required to have an EPC, that property will be within scope of the minimum energy efficiency standards.

As noted at 1.3.3 above, an EPC is not building within a conservation area when it

appearance. Examples of energy performance measures which may after character or panels, or an external wall mounted air source would not be altered by compliance with

I take this to mean that listed buildings are only exempt from the requirement for an EPC if compliance with the minimum energy performance requirements of the EPC would unacceptably alter its character or appearance So in order to make an informed decision about whether an EPC is required, an owner would need an EPC because only then can they determine, presumably in consultation with the local planning authority whether compliance with the requirements would be

Others have taken the view that the UK Government now believes the exemption for listed buildings is much more restricted than had previously been accepted, Indeed, it would appear to be more compatible with the Scottish Government's interpretation that the exemption is solely from making

#### THE RETRO FIT-UP

HOW GOVERNMENT ENERGY POLICY IS FAILING OLDER HOUSES ACROSS THE BRITISH COUNTRYSIDE

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- -> Confusing and damaging government policy is holding back necessary investment to make homes warmer across the countryside.
- The Government's assessment tool for dwellings - the Energy Performance Certificate - is failing to accurately reflect the energy efficiency of traditionally
- → Without urgent reform thousands of homeowners will continue to be signposted toward retrofit measures that are either inappropriate or outright harmful to the structure and character of the building.
- -> Strict rules that will ban landlords from renting out properties with an energy rating below E from 1 April 2018 are poorly communicated.
- → Without urgent action thousands of rented homes across rural England and Wales are at risk of becoming incorrectly

#### ABOUT THE CLA

CLA members own and manage around 40% of the rural private rented sector. Our members let housing as part of wider land based businesses with property as part of wider land based outsinesses with property connecting ranging from one or those properties to larger estates managing hundreds of homes. The majority of proporties our members let out have been in ownership-for multiple generations, providing a long term rental option of both market and reduced rent housing to their communities. The private rented sector fulfils an important role in rural communities where other housing providers do not operate.



CLA members provide private rented housing for around 275,000 households across England and Wales.



# Other questions & issues along the way

- Conflicting government advice across EPC and PRS legislation
- Lots of questions re EPCs:
  - Voluntary EPCs
  - EPCs when they expire
  - Sub-let cottages
  - Staff/key rep accommodation
  - Farm tenancies
  - Full repair leases
  - How to evidence listed buildings?



# Other questions & issues along the way

- Change in exemptions and planning for the 'interim period'
- Ensuring data (EPC/exemptions) are stored correctly and notifications are done for when exemption expires
- Backstop properties how to fund work and how to work with tenants
- Longer void times between lettings
- How to integrate with other programmes of work taking place
- Non-domestic legislation

And of course what about Band C by 2030 and the changing government policy..?