



FPRA
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The Voice of Leaseholders

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Thursday 23 April 2009)

GOVERNMENT'S 'WARMFRONT' ANNOUNCEMENT COULD LEAVE MILLIONS OF FLAT OWNERS 'OUT IN THE COLD'

The Federation of Private Residents Association has responded angrily today at the Government's changes to the 'Warmfront' energy efficiency scheme.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has announced the changes to the Warm Front Scheme in a written ministerial statement today which is meant to improve the quality of service to customers.

Federation Chairman Bob Smytherman said:

"The Warm Front scheme provides essential grants for people on qualifying disability or income related benefits to install insulation or energy efficient heating in their homes, however we believe millions of leasehold flat owners will continue to be excluded from these grants due to the terms of their lease which prevents such works being carried out."

"The FPRA continues to believe in order for the UK to achieve its ambitious target of an 80 per cent cut in carbon emissions by 2050 the Government needs to address the very real complications involving the private residential leasehold sector, leasehold flats in the UK are a significant proportion of our homes and are effectively excluded from carrying out many home insulation initiatives as a result of legislation or because there is no provision for this in their leases."

Federation Chairman Bob Smytherman added:

"I now hope the Community Energy Saving Programme when it is finally published will include proposals for improving the quality and availability of information and advice specific to leasehold flat owners and tenants and that new finance packages for the delivery of energy efficient and low carbon improvements will be available to every leasehold property in the country? "

"The Government's ambition must include providing cavity wall and loft insulation for all leasehold properties by 2015."

"We need to move from the present incremental steps like today's announcement , which currently exclude many leasehold flats from the Warmfront energy efficiency program to a much more comprehensive national plan for everyone."

"Wasted energy is costing families on average £300 a year, and more than a quarter of all our emissions are from our homes and we now want the Government to address the very real barriers within the terms of many leases that are stopping many homeowners getting involved in the Warmfront scheme."

Ends

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Notes to Editors-

Federation of Private Residents Associations Ltd is part of the Fuel Poverty Coalition, a wide range of organisations concerned with the elderly, poverty and the environment. Members of the Coalition include Age Concern England, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Child Poverty Action Group, Consumer Focus, Disability Alliance, Friends of the Earth, Help the Aged, National Right to Fuel Campaign, Association for the Conservation of Energy and UNISON .

The FPRA exists to advise and support leaseholders (flat owners) and residential management companies, to lobby for the interests of leaseholders, to be a forum for debate, and to keep members informed of legal and practical developments in leasehold matters. The FPRA was set up in 1971 as a non-political, non-profit making voluntary organisation by a group of private sector residents' associations. It became a limited company in 1986. Its directors are unpaid volunteers, and have long experience in leasehold matters.

Households connected to the gas grid are now eligible for grants of up to £3500, up from £2700, while those in areas off the gas grid (which includes many blocks of flats) can apply for funding up to £6000

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This email was sent from or on behalf of The Federation of Private Residents Associations Ltd.

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