

Annex 1

Respondent Details	
Company/Organisation:	Northern Ireland Fuel Poverty Coalition (FPC)
Designation of organisation: Eg. public sector, not-for-profit, energy supplier, private company	Not for profit
Respondent Name:	C/O Lucy Cochrane
Job title:	Policy and Campaigns Officer
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Qu No.	Question	Consent to publish your response (Y/N)
Qu. 1	Are you aware of any energy efficiency schemes that operate in Northern Ireland? If yes, please tell us the schemes you are aware of.	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Warmth Scheme • Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP) • Boiler Replacement Allowance • HeatSmart • Local initiatives 		
Qu. 2	<p>Are you familiar specifically with the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP)? If so, tell us did you:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) design/bid for funding for a scheme b) provide advice to someone applying for energy efficiency work to their property c) carry out work as a contractor/installer for a NISEP scheme d) receive energy efficiency measures to your property? e) other <p>If you did not participate in/avail of NISEP, was there a particular barrier to stop you?</p>	Yes
<p>Numerous Fuel Poverty Coalition (FPC) members have direct experience with recipients or an awareness of the scheme. Many members provide frontline advice and/or referrals to energy advice schemes including the NISEP.</p>		
Qu. 3	<p>Have you either directly participated in/availed of any of the other schemes, or provided advice to anyone participating/availing? If yes, tell us which scheme.</p> <p>If you did not, tell us why, and if there were any particular barriers to stop you?</p>	Yes
<p>The FPC has a diverse membership which is made up of voluntary and community sector organisations, industry, health professionals, faith groups, local government and academics. Members are regularly updated on the current schemes including the NISEP. Our manifesto has five key asks which includes ensuring all current and future energy efficiency schemes are effectively targeted at those</p>		

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	<p>who needs the most support and any emerging scheme must ensure that the energy justice principles of the NISEP are embedded as a key principle.</p>	
Qu. 4	<p>Are you familiar with how the NISEP is delivered? If so, what is your opinion of the delivery? Do you think this could be improved? If so, how?</p>	Yes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NISEP is targeted at households with gross income less than £23,000-£28,000 (Single person) and £30,000-£40,000 (Single parent family/Couples/Over 75) who are not eligible for the Affordable Warmth Scheme; • The scheme can provide fully funded grants for home owners and those in the Private Rented Sector; • The NISEP provides measures such as cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and heating systems; and • There is no other system available to do this. 	
Qu. 5	<p>What is your view of how NISEP is funded? (see information within this document)</p>	Yes
	<p>The funding arrangement is currently through a Public Service Obligation (PSO), which collects a charge based on kilowatt hour of electricity used by all domestic and business customers can be contentious, however, NEA NI managed to ensure that 80% of this fund was targeted at fuel poverty. The lowest income household gets first – enshrining principles of social justice. The FPC was set up in response to the serious levels of fuel poverty in Northern Ireland therefore the NISEP is one of the key practical initiatives which directly reduces levels of fuel poverty.</p>	
Qu. 6	<p>What are the benefits of NISEP? Do you have any case studies you could provide outlining the benefits?</p>	Yes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency is the most sustainable way to tackle fuel poverty. • Energy efficiency has synergies with climate change, decarbonisation and as the document states, this is currently ‘the only Northern Ireland policy measure contributing energy savings toward the UK target under the Energy Efficiency Directive’. 	

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Qu. 7	What are your thoughts on the eligibility criteria for NISEP funding? Do you think this requires any change? If so, how?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to target the fuel poor; • Continues to complement the existing schemes; • Based on the evidence that the existing NISEP is at full capacity each year, there is a need for more of it; and • It is the only available scheme providing fully funded grants for the private rented sector. 		
Qu. 8	What is your view of the 80% ring-fence for vulnerable customers?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% should be ring-fenced for vulnerable customers; • Due to the nature of a levy-based scheme the worse off should be prioritised; • Other information useful to make a meaningful reply need to be addressed such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What other levies are paid for through bills? ○ How much are these levies and for how long to we pay these? ○ What exemptions do industry get? 		
Qu. 9	Should a need be established to continue NISEP (or develop a replacement), do you think there are changes that could be made? If so, please provide detail.	Yes
<p>Yes – the design is required to be needs based.</p> <p>The programme should be run over a longer period, potentially co-terminus with the current price reviews.</p>		

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Qu. 10	Do you believe householders/businesses would carry out the energy efficiency work without NISEP? (Please specify if you are talking about domestic or business properties)	Yes
<p>We believe this is highly unlikely: Low income households are unlikely to afford the upfront capital costs of installing energy efficiency measures, nor are they likely to be in the position to obtain loans, which would be less effective and potentially regressive.</p>		
Qu. 11	What is your view of the importance of NISEP? Is there a need for NISEP, (or a replacement scheme) paid for by customers, to continue to support energy efficiency work in Northern Ireland? If yes, please specify what changes should be made in order to ensure that it is additional to other support programmes, such as Affordable Warmth and/or Boiler Replacement or support available to businesses?	Yes
<p>Yes, there is very much a need for the NISEP; the current schemes are substantially depleted already within this financial year and there is unmet need. The latest fuel poverty statistics are still high at 22%, which means over 1 in 5 are living in fuel poverty. This figure is potentially higher due to the increase in energy prices over the last two years. There are a number of factors on the importance of improving thermal comfort within low income households namely reducing heat loss and subsequent fuel bills, improving health and wellbeing and reducing carbon.</p>		
Qu. 12	If you think NISEP should continue, up to what level should electricity customers continue to pay?	Yes
<p>There is a need for a suitable plan which should include analysis on what the energy efficiency needs of the fuel poor are and what the customer can bear.</p> <p>Consideration will need to be made on increasing customer charge, but this will need to be fleshed out.</p>		

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Qu. 13	Are you aware of any research/reports or other information that could help inform UR's equality screening in relation to NISEP? This will include any information of the impact that NISEP has on a range of groups listed in Section 75 of the NI Act. If so, please provide details.	Yes
<p>Considerations for low income poverty as an example the 2016-17 Households below average income supporting data tables provide a full breakdown of indicators associated with various backgrounds pertinent to the range of groups listed in Section 75 of the NI Act. https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/households-below-average-income-northern-ireland-201617</p>		
Qu. 14	<p>Are you aware of any research/reports or other information that could inform UR's consideration of the impact NISEP has on the following groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) those of different ages (including households with children or with members who are of pensionable age); 2) those with a disability or chronic illness and those without; 3) those who live in rural areas; 4) those on low income? <p>If yes please provide details.</p>	Yes
See above.		
Qu. 15	Are you aware of any research reports or other information that could inform UR's consideration of the impact NISEP has had on business customers? If so please provide details	N/A

Qu No.	Question	Consent to publish your response (Y/N)
	Any additional comments	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 160,000 households in Northern Ireland live in fuel poverty; • 640 excess winter deaths in 2015-16 across Northern Ireland, with approximately 30% attributable to living in a cold home; • 68% of households in Northern Ireland are reliant on home heating oil to heat their homes; an unregulated fuel in terms of price and vulnerable consumer protection; and • Estimated savings to the NHS for mitigating Category 1 Hazard Excess cold is estimated to be £14million with societal savings of £265,943,105. 		