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## Summary of Updates to BUS Guidance for Property Owners

### Introduction

Introduction This document outlines the updates that we have made in each iteration of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme property owner guidance. The paragraph numbers referred to in this document relate to the paragraph numbers at the time of updating.

### Overview of amendments to Boiler Upgrade Scheme property owner guidance

#### Version 4.1

These changes reflect the latest updates to the BUS installer guidance as of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

#### BUS Overview

- 1.5 added to provide clarity on additional budget for financial year 2024/2025
- 1.6 added to provide clarity on the scheme budget for financial year 2025/2026

#### Version 4

These changes reflect the latest updates to the BUS installer guidance as of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

#### Throughout the document

Amendments to text to improve clarity.

#### Boiler Upgrade Scheme overview

- Paragraph 1.5 text added to update that DESNZ have issued a notice to give Ofgem the ability to over-allocate BUS vouchers up to £200 million.
- Paragraph 1.24 text added to reiterate that our Enquiries team are unable to provide pre-emptive assurances on applications.
- Footnote 32 added to include a link to MCS webpage.

## **Grants**

- Footnote 39 added to include a link to the changes to BUS, October 2023 from Gov.uk
- Paragraph 3.6 text added to note that the Secretary of State will publish a notice of the grant categories on the Government website. 28 days later the new set of grant categories will come into effect.
- Footnote 41 added to include a link to the BUS regulations

## **Eligibility Requirements**

- Paragraph 4.23 text added to confirm that only one MCS certificate should be generated in respect of a cascade system application.
- Paragraph 4.35 text added to specify what a related property is.
- Paragraph 4.35 text added to say that eligible heat pumps or biomass boilers must provide both space and hot water heating to the property.
- Paragraph 4.36 text added to specify what is included under fossil fuel heating systems
- Paragraph 4.37 text added to specify eligible supplementary heating systems.
- Paragraph 4.38 text added to clarify the requirements of retained heating systems.
- Paragraph 4.39 replacement of "recommend" with "strongly encourage".
- Paragraph 4.40 text added giving the definition of "commissioned".
- Paragraph 4.41 text added giving the definition of "commissioning date".
- Paragraph 4.42 text added to give greater clarity to the 120-day commissioning rule.
- Paragraph 4.43 text added to specify that installers should only try to redeem their BUS voucher once the system has been fully commissioned
- Paragraph 4.44 text added listing the criteria needed for an application to be "properly made".
- Paragraph 4.52 text added on the EPC requirements for churches and park homes.
- Paragraph 4.53 text added to confirm that only one voucher can be redeemed for each legally separate property.
- Paragraph 4.56 text added to confirm that an EPC is not required at the voucher redemption stage.
- Paragraph 4.64 text added to confirm that self-builds can be eligible under BUS, but that Biomass Boilers are not eligible for self-builds.
- Paragraph 4.66 text included to confirm that Ofgem will need evidence to prove a self-build.
- Paragraph 4.67 text included to specify that evidence around funding and ownership of self-build properties must be satisfactory.

## **The Application Process**

- Paragraph 5.17 text added regarding the evidence needed to assess self-build ownership and eligibility.
- Paragraph 5.18 text added to confirm that for self-builds, Ofgem will accept a temporary address given by the local authority.

- Footnote 71 confirming that planning permission reference numbers can only be used to confirm address, not ownership or funding requirements.
- Paragraph 5.25 text added to note that assurance checks do not have an impact on property owner's credit rating.
- Paragraph 5.40 text added to note that where property owner consent has been provided fraudulently, we will refer this to our counter-fraud team.

### **Audit and Compliance**

- Paragraph 6.14 bullet point added to include "the heating system is not fully commissioned" as an example of non-compliance.
- Paragraph 6.19 text added to define fraud and scheme abuse.
- Footnote 84 added to clarify that in limited circumstances, it may be possible for a subsequent BUS application to be made at an address following a revocation.
- Paragraph 6.20 text added to clarify that in cases of non-compliance, there will be a suspension of payments during any investigation, which could lead to a criminal prosecution.
- Paragraph 6.21 text added regarding proof that fraud hasn't occurred.

### **Consumer rights and protections**

- Paragraph 7.2 text added to confirm installer responsibility to ensure their application meets the eligibility criteria for the scheme.

### **Reporting**

- Paragraph 8.5 text added to confirm that Ofgem may also publish updates to the scheme as needed.