

01 September 2023

Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Dear Secretary of State,

## Importance of Environmental Health

I am writing to you on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) to extend a warm welcome to your new role as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The CIEH is the leading professional body for environmental health practitioners in the UK. We represent over 7,000 members working in a wide range of sectors, including local government, the NHS, the armed forces, as well as in academia and the private sector.

We are confident that you will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to this important role, and we look forward to working with you to achieve our shared goals of net zero carbon emissions and a cleaner, healthier environment.

In our [Manifesto for Environmental Health 2023](#), we set out our vision for a healthier, cleaner future for the UK. We believe that environmental health has a key role to play in achieving net zero carbon emissions, and we are committed to working with you to make this a reality.

We are calling for the following policy asks in relation to energy efficiency and air quality:

**Targeted energy efficiency measures** designed to reduce our emissions from housing while simultaneously reducing the public health effects of cold homes which is costing the NHS billions every year.

**Greater regulation of domestic wood burners in built up urban environments where there are on-grid heating alternatives.** Wood burners can produce harmful emissions, including PM<sub>2.5</sub>. In built up urban environments, where there are other options for heating, we believe that wood burners should be subject to greater regulation or even banned altogether.

We believe that these policies are essential to achieving our shared goals of net zero carbon emissions and a cleaner, healthier environment. We would be happy to discuss these in more detail with you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. James', with a stylized flourish underneath.

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Chief Executive Officer, CIEH

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