**Draft press release to local media**

**[Insert area] families facing higher bills as [Insert percentage] of homes in [Insert area] fail to meet basic energy efficiency standards**

[Insert percentage] of homes assessed in [insert area] in the past five years failed to meet the basic Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of a C, new data analysis released today has found. Poorly insulated homes often face higher bills: £1 of every £4 spent by UK households on energy is wasted due to poor insulation.

To tackle this, the Co-operative Party’s #CantWaitToInsulate campaign is calling on the Government to speed up and bolster their commitment to retrofitting - the process of upgrading homes to make them more energy efficient, such as installing loft insulation or double-glazed windows.

In last month’s Autumn Statement, the Government committed to spend an extra £6bn on retrofitting from 2025, likely after the next election. In response, the #CantWaitToInsulate campaign are organising an open letter to Grant Shapps MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The letter calls on the Government to bring forward this extra funding from 2025 to now, and to match the Labour Party’s commitment to spend £6billion a year over a decade to retrofit every single home which fails to meet these basic standards.

[Insert your name], Labour & Co-operative [Insert Representative Type] for [Insert Area] said:

‘Britain's homes are notoriously draughty, damp and cold – and with energy prices rising, that can make them incredibly expensive to heat. It’s unbelievable that in [Insert Place], [Insert Percentage] of households are facing higher bills because their homes fail to meet basic energy efficiency standards.

“Everyone in [Insert Place] has the right to a safe, warm home. That’s why I’ve joined the #CantWaitToInsulate campaign and co-signed a letter calling on the Government to provide more money now to retrofit homes in [Insert Place].”

ENDS

**Notes to editors**

1. Data analysis provided by the Co-operative Party’s [#CantWaitToInsulate](https://energy.party.coop) campaign (https://energy.party.coop), based on data published by the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities online (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-energy-performance-of-buildings-certificates>). The analysis complied the previous five years of EPCs issued in every local authority in England and Wales, providing the percentage of properties rated below a “C” and the modal average certificate issued.
2. An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) must be issued for every property built, sold or rented out in England and Wales. This rates a home on a scale from A-G at how efficient it is: the better the rating, the less expensive it likely is to run and heat. Over 19 million homes across the UK fail to meet the basic “C” rating. It is illegal to privately let a property that has an EPC rating below “E”.
3. The wording of the open letter to Grand Shapps MP can be found on the #CantWaitToInsulate campaign website (<https://energy.party.coop/action/>)
4. The Co-operative Party is the political party of the co-operative movement and has been in an electoral agreement with the Labour Party since 1927. There are 26 joint Labour and Co-operative MPs and more than 1300 Labour & Co-operative local councillors, as well as elected representatives in Holyrood, the Senedd and the London Assembly and five Labour & Co-operative Metro Mayors.